

ISSUE 24 • JANUARY 2026

# Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

**The art of small luxury**  
**A boutique blueprint**



**Made in Antigua**  
Inspired island  
artisans

**Calvin Ayre**  
Entrepreneur,  
philanthropist and  
economic envoy

**Daniel Shamon**  
Redefining island  
luxury

# WHERE ART MEETS THE OCEAN

A MODERN CARIBBEAN RESORT ON ANTIGUA'S  
NORTHERN SHORE – BOLD IN DESIGN, INTIMATE  
IN SPIRIT, RELAXED BY NATURE.



**HODGES BAY**  
ANTIGUA, WEST INDIES

 **KATSUYA** BEACH

AN AWARD-WINNING GLOBAL DINING ICON IS HEADING TO ANTIGUA

# WELCOME



*“Those interested in investing capital to create a boutique experience will find an administration ready to guide them.”*

A new year provides an opportunity to look back and assess the steps taken to make Antigua & Barbuda an attractive destination for tourists and investors alike. 2026 brings renewed energy for decision-makers to think ahead and chart a successful route towards abundance and satisfaction. Repeat visitors and newcomers are always at the forefront of our planning, recognising that their visit to the twin islands must be pleasing if they are to consider investing, while also offering a variety of choices that guarantee an enjoyable vacation.

Antigua & Barbuda is positioning itself to meet growing demand for boutique hotels and distinctive experiences, from sensitively restored 300-year-old forts that blend modern comfort with historic character, to boutique properties along our pristine coastline.

Boutique tourism also presents compelling opportunities for investors seeking well-defined, high-value projects. Thoughtfully scaled developments that emphasise quality, character and personalised service continue to perform strongly in a market where travellers are willing to pay a premium for distinctive experiences. Antigua & Barbuda offers a stable environment in which such ventures can be carefully developed, supported and brought to market.

Since tourism was formally recognised by law in 1952 as vital to the Antigua & Barbuda economy, there has been ongoing experimentation with hotels, dining, recreation and water sports to appeal to a wide cross-section of visitors. Antigua & Barbuda is following trends and adjusting to make the product as attractive as possible, serving every emerging niche. Those interested in investing capital to create a boutique experience will find an administration ready to guide them.

Thank you for considering Antigua & Barbuda. Welcome to paradise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Browne'.

Honourable Gaston Browne  
Prime Minister



# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

**I**n Antigua & Barbuda, life has never been about scale. It has always been about soul. The twin islands move to a quieter rhythm, shaped by the sea, the sun and a sense of refinement that comes not from grandeur but from simplicity. Here, luxury is measured not in size, but in spirit.

That spirit has long defined the way Antigua welcomes the world. The islands have never chased the model of mass tourism; instead, they have nurtured a boutique hospitality that reflects their character and pace. From beachfront escapes surrounded by tropical foliage to intimate retreats defined by authenticity and individuality, Antigua & Barbuda's charm lies in the art of staying small and

living beautifully. Indeed, boutique, in Antigua, is not a trend; it's second nature.

This sense of intimacy extends beyond the hotels. It is woven into daily life, in the warmth of a greeting at the market, the easy conversation over a sunset drink and the pride in craftsmanship and community that define the islands. Here, visitors find themselves drawn into the islands' rhythm, experiencing the culture as participants rather than spectators.

And these same qualities are often what draw people to live or invest in the twin islands. Beyond that, the twin islands offer good healthcare and education, a safe and stable environment, strong communications



infrastructure and reliable utilities. Add to this boutique developments, a thriving culinary scene and a welcoming cosmopolitan community. With direct flights to major cities in North America and Europe, Antigua & Barbuda is a world away in spirit, yet never far in reach.

With all this on offer, it should be no surprise that so many are drawn to put down roots, invest, or simply keep the option of a second home in the twin islands. Antigua & Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme is ranked in the top five in the 2025 Henley Passport Index. Citizenship of the islands grants individuals myriad benefits, offering personal freedom, global mobility, a second home and a plan B in uncertain geopolitical times. ●

# Antigua & Barbuda

## THE CITIZEN

THE CITIZEN, the official publication of the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), is produced by Select Publishing with the full support of Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CIU's Chief Executive Officer and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda.

**Publisher:** Danielle Jacobsen

**Managing Editor:** Susan Brophy

**Creative & Art Director:** Marta Conceição

**Advertising Designer:** Paulo Couto/Marta Conceição

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**For all editorial and advertising enquiries,  
or to order a free copy, contact:**

[select@select-publishing.com](mailto:select@select-publishing.com)

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**For Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) related enquiries, contact CIU at:**

[info@cip.gov.ag](mailto:info@cip.gov.ag)

[www.cip.gov.ag](http://www.cip.gov.ag)



**For Investment Migration Council (IMC) membership enquiries, contact the Regional Representative Office at:**

[caribbean@investmentmigration.org](mailto:caribbean@investmentmigration.org)

[www.investmentmigration.org](http://www.investmentmigration.org)



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Susan Brophy  
Editor

## Welcome to Issue 24 of The Citizen!

As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the stories that continue to shape the islands.

This issue's cover story, *The Art of Small Luxury*, explores boutique hotels across Antigua & Barbuda and why they have long played a natural role in the islands' hospitality scene. From intimate hideaways to thoughtfully designed retreats, these smaller properties continue to resonate with travellers thanks to their personal service, design and individuality.

That same spirit runs through *Made in Antigua*, where we meet the artisans whose hands and ideas give shape to the islands' creative identity. From materials sourced close to home to skills passed down or newly imagined, their work reminds us that luxury is often found in originality rather than scale.

People, too, sit at the heart of this issue. Our interview with Calvin Ayre explores the perspective of a long-time resident, ambassador and citizen of Antigua & Barbuda. He reflects on entrepreneurship, philanthropy and his continued investment in the islands, including Nikki Beach, his latest venture in the tourism sector.

Daniel Shamoon offers a different lens. As a leading figure in global boutique hospitality, he speaks about what drew him to Antigua & Barbuda and how projects such as Hermitage Bay and the forthcoming Nobu Beach Inn in Barbuda fit within his wider philosophy of luxury.

Through a very different creative lens, photographer Angela Lo Priore presents *Waadli Feminine*, a striking body of work celebrating Antiguan women through portraiture rooted in nature, strength and self-expression.

We also meet new citizens Toni Halliday and Alan Moulder, who share how, after long careers in the music industry, they came to Antigua & Barbuda, fell in love with the islands and decided to make them home.

We also turn to history, as Nelson's Dockyard marks its 300th anniversary. National Parks Authority's Desley Gardner reflects on the UNESCO World Heritage Site that has evolved from strategic stronghold to living monument, while our look at the deep-rooted ties between the Caribbean and Africa reminds us that cultural connections stretch far beyond modern borders.

Looking ahead is just as important as honouring the past. Our conservation feature on light pollution examines the impact of losing dark skies and why they are worth protecting.

In the world of investment migration, industry expert Nuri Katz shares his perspective on where Caribbean citizenship by investment is heading in this issue's Opinion piece, while our regular *Up Close and Personal* feature introduces agent Rufus Gobat, a familiar figure within Antigua & Barbuda's citizenship by investment industry.

From all of us at *The Citizen*, thank you to our contributors and readers for being part of this journey.



# CONTRIBUTORS



*Desley Gardner*

Is the Heritage Resources Supervisor at the National Parks Authority, where she works to protect and interpret Nelson's Dockyard National Park. An archaeologist with a master's degree in World Heritage Studies, she is the only currently practising female archaeologist in Antigua & Barbuda. Her work focuses on Caribbean heritage management, community engagement, climate change impacts on coastal sites and the 8<sup>th</sup> of March Project.



*Nuri Katz*

Is the founder of Apex Capital Partners, a company specialising in advising international HNWI individuals and governments on citizenship by investment programmes. He is one of the world's leading authorities on investment migration, having practised his profession for over 30 years. Nuri and his family live in Antigua & Barbuda.



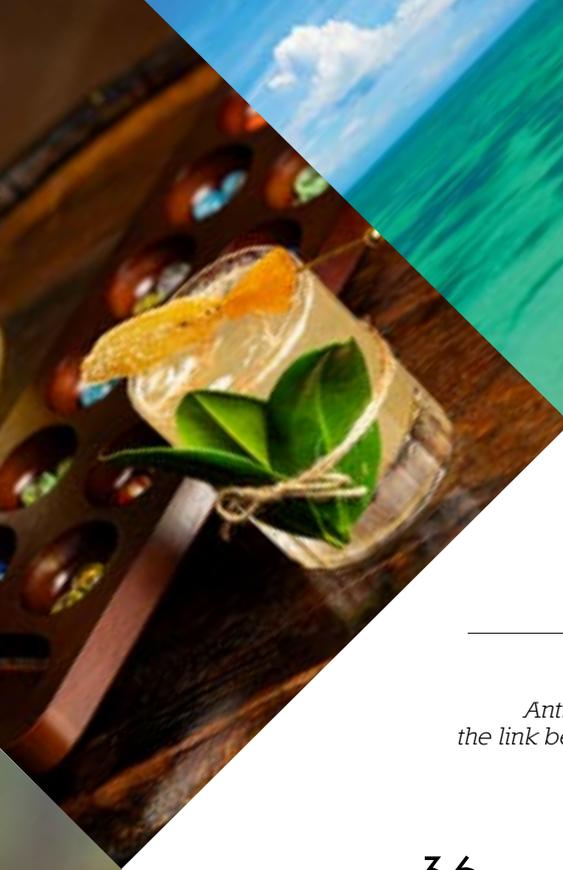
*Dean Fenton*

Is the US Director for the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority and has been marketing Caribbean tourism for over 20 years. Known for his strategic thinking and ability to see the "big picture," Dean thrives in dynamic environments requiring flexibility and results. He maintains solid relationships with promotional partners, travel advisors, tour operators, airlines, travel communities, trade and consumer media.



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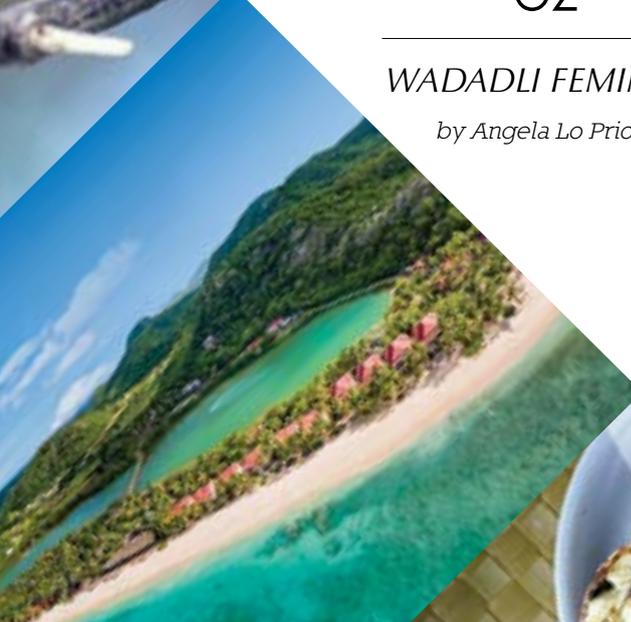
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invest, and live without  
boundaries.**

Antigua & Barbuda citizenship is more than a passport - it's an investment in safety, freedom, and global opportunity.

We are a team of trusted experts specialising in citizenship by investment in Antigua & Barbuda.

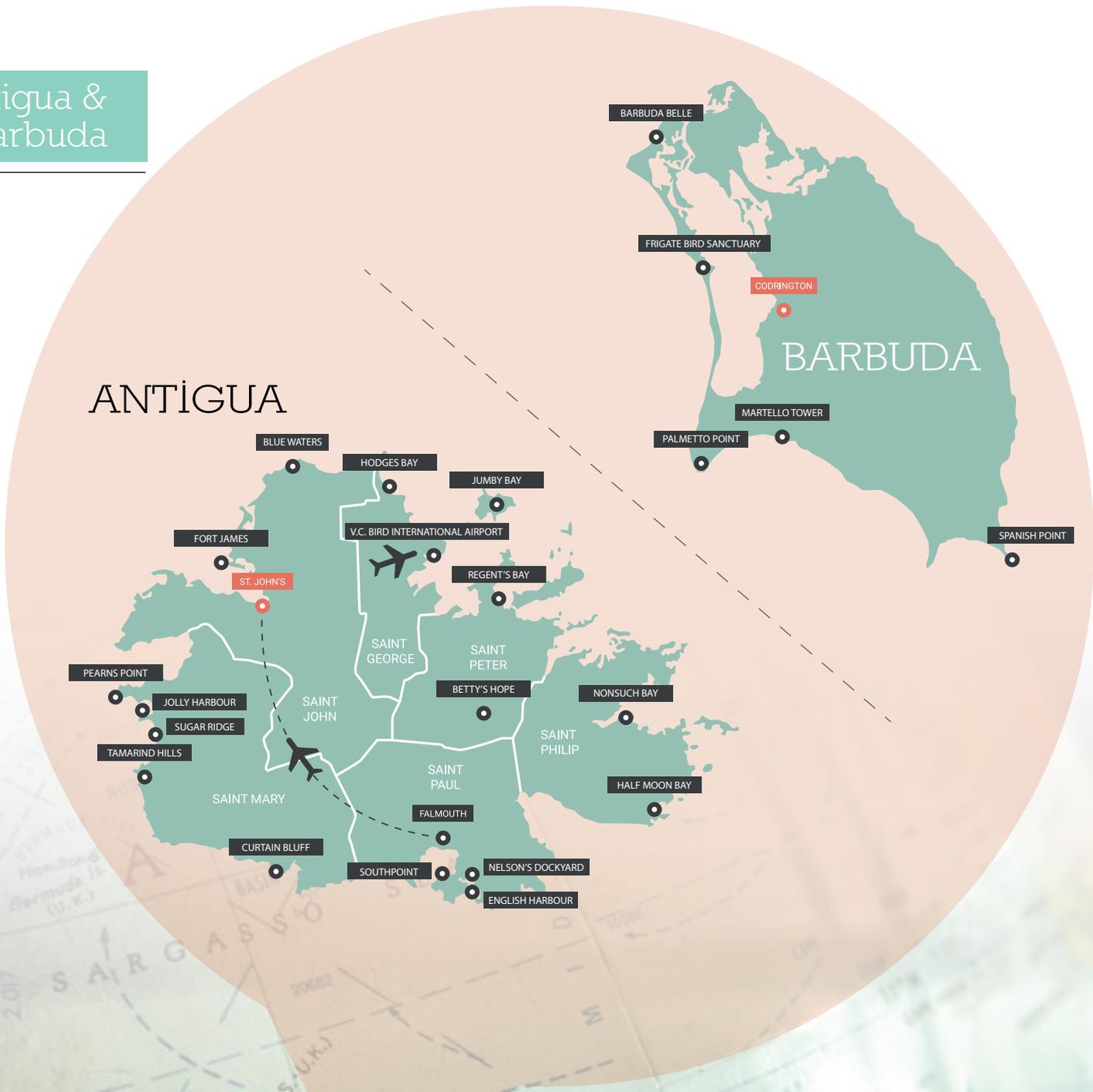
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# Antigua & Barbuda





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## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA Citizenship by Investment Programme

There are four types of investment which will qualify you for citizenship in the paradise islands of Antigua & Barbuda. As an applicant, you can choose between contributing to the National Development Fund (NDF), to the University of the West Indies Fund, purchasing property in a pre-approved real estate development, or investing in an approved business venture.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The NDF was established to fund income-generating public sector projects, innovation in entrepreneurship and approved charitable investments. It is audited by an internationally recognised accounting firm, and reports on its status are published each year. If this is your investment of choice, you are invited to contribute USD230,000 to the NDF, which is a one-time contribution for a family of four.

**Contribution:** US\$230,000

Processing fees:\*

**Single applicant:** US\$10,000

**Family up to 4 persons:** US\$20,000

**For a family of 5 or more:** US\$20,000 plus US\$10,000 per additional family member.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) FUND

This investment option serves as a mechanism to finance the new University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. This contribution will also entitle one member of the family to a one-year tuition-only scholarship at the UWI.

**Contribution:** US\$260,000

Processing fees:\*

**For a family of 6:** Included

**For a family of 7 or more:** US\$10,000 per additional family member.

### INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

You and your family can obtain citizenship by purchasing a property in Antigua & Barbuda. You may also benefit from rental revenue with this investment. To qualify for citizenship under this option, you must invest US\$300,000 or more in a designated, officially approved real estate development. You must own the property for a minimum of five years before selling it. At this time, the first owners may resell the unit or shares to a subsequent applicant as an eligible investment. No subsequent sales of the asset will be allowed under the programme.

**Contribution:** US\$300,000

Processing fees:\*

**Single applicant:** US\$10,000

**Family up to 4 persons:** US\$20,000

**For a family of 5 or more:** US\$20,000 plus US\$10,000 per additional family member.

### BUSINESS INVESTMENT

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) secures approval for businesses, whether existing or proposed, from the Cabinet of Antigua & Barbuda for the purposes of investment in business under the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

**There are two business investment options:**

- Single investor investing at least US\$1,500,000
- Joint investment of US\$5,000,000 with no party investing less than US\$400,000

Processing fees:\*

**Single applicant:** US\$10,000

**Family up to 4 persons:** US\$20,000

**For a family of 5 or more:** US\$20,000 plus US\$10,000 per additional family member.

Please note that all four options also include a due diligence fee of US\$8,500 for the main applicant, US\$5,000 for spouse, US\$2,000 for any dependent child between 12-17 years of age and US\$4,000 for any dependent child/parent between 18-30 and 55 plus years.

\* Processing fees for additional dependents, post-approval: US\$10,000 for children from 0 to 5 years, US\$25,000 for children aged 6-17 years and US\$50,000 for adults aged 18 years and older. For a future spouse of the principal applicant, a fee of US\$50,000 is payable upon application.

# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

## Citizenship by Investment Programme

### Frequently Asked Questions

CITIZENSHIP BY  
INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME

#### **Why does Antigua & Barbuda have a citizenship by investment programme?**

The programme was introduced to promote economic growth, attract real estate development, increase foreign direct investment, support the development of infrastructure and provide for a sustainable future.

#### **What is the processing time?**

Processing your application should take from 4 to 6 months.

#### **Who can apply for citizenship?**

To apply for the citizenship programme in Antigua & Barbuda, you must be at least 18 years of age, be of good character with no criminal record, and have good health.

#### **Do I need to speak English to apply for citizenship?**

You don't need to speak English to be an applicant.

#### **Who can be included in the application?**

Your dependent children under 31 and dependent parents over 55 can be included within the application. \*See definition of dependents below.

#### **How do you conduct the due diligence and vetting of applicants?**

All applicants must undergo an interview and rigorous screening prior to consideration by the Citizenship by Investment Unit. Complete applications will be forwarded to an international, unbiased third-party due diligence service provider who will conduct detailed background checks on all applicants before the application is approved. Checks are also conducted with international law enforcement agencies.

#### *\* Dependents are as follows:*

*A spouse of the main applicant; A child of the main applicant or his or her spouse who is 0-30 years of age; a child of the main applicant or of his or her spouse who is 18 years or older but who is physically or mentally disabled and who is living with and is fully supported by the main applicant; a parent or grandparent of the main applicant, or his or her spouse, who is 55 years of age or older and who is financially dependent on the principal applicant; a sibling of the main applicant, or of his or her spouse, if unmarried.*

*For any additional questions, please contact an authorised representative, licensed agent or the CIU directly.*

#### **What happens once my application has been accepted?**

A certificate of registration of citizenship will be issued and submitted to the passport office. Your authorised agent/representative will forward your passports and Citizenship Certificate to you.

#### **Do I need to travel to Antigua & Barbuda to complete the process?**

The application process can be completed from your country of residence. Once your application is successful and you have received your passport, you must take your oath or affirmation of allegiance. You are required to visit Antigua & Barbuda for a minimum of 5 days within the first 5 years of acquiring citizenship, and you can take up full-time residence in Antigua & Barbuda at any time you wish.

#### **Does Antigua & Barbuda recognise dual citizenship?**

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda.

#### **For how many years will my passport be valid?**

The passport will be valid for a period of 5 years and is renewable for a period of 10 years thereafter, provided that the requirements are met, which includes spending a minimum of five days in the country during this period after becoming a citizen.

#### **In addition to the citizenship by investment programme, does Antigua & Barbuda have a tax residency programme?**

Antigua & Barbuda does not currently offer a tax residency programme.

#### *For future addition of dependents:*

*A future spouse of the main applicant. (A fee of US\$50,000 is payable upon application); a future spouse of dependent children not older than 35 years of age; and a future child of a dependent child. (A fee of US\$10,000 is to be payable for children from 0 to 5 years of age and US\$25,000 for children 6-17 years of age).*





# Secure their future Protect what matters most

In a world filled with uncertainties, one of the greatest gifts you can offer your family is security and peace of mind.

The Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme provides an opportunity to invest in a future that ensures stability and protection for generations to come.

With flexible investment options tailored for families, you can choose the pathway that best fits your needs, all while securing a brighter future for those you love most.

**Invest in your family's legacy with the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme.**

[www.cip.gov.ag](http://www.cip.gov.ag)



# LICENSED AGENTS

- Eugene Abbott: eabbott@abifinancialgroup.com  
ABI Financial Group: www.abifinancialgroup.com
- McAlister Abbott: mabbott@gcpantigua.com  
Global Citizenship Partners: www.gcpantigua.com
- Emarline Benjamin: ebenjamin@citizenshipconnect.com  
Citizenship Connect: www.citizenshipconnect.com
- Leslie-Ann Brissett George: lesliann@lbrissettlegal.com  
Leslie-Ann Brissett Legal Services: www.lbrissettlegal.com
- Sharon Cort-Thibou: legal@cortandcort.com  
Turnkey Antigua: www.turnkeyantigua.com
- Brian D'Ornellas: briandornellas@clientreferrals.com  
Client Referrals: www.clientreferrals.com
- Verlyn L. Faustin: verlyn.faustin@civesmundiinc.com  
Cives Mundi Inc
- Edward Fisher: edward.fisher@ag.gt.com  
Grant Thornton: www.grantthornton.ag
- Hollis E. Francis Jr.: info@heflawantigua.com  
HEF LAW: www.heflawantigua.com
- Thomas Francis: tfrancis0483@gmail.com  
Caribbean Concierge
- T.M. Rufus Gobat: rufus@caribliflife.ag  
Caribbean Lifestyle Services: www.caribliflife.ag
- Jan Gonzalez-Peltier: christopherandassociateslaw@gmail.com  
Christopher & Associates
- Nigel Gore: nigel@blueprint-development.com  
Blueprint Development: www.blueprint-development.com
- Jason Hadeed: jason@gambitantigua.com  
Gambit Management Ltd: www.gambitantigua.com
- Gaye Hechme: ghechme@ilis.ag  
Island Living Investment Services Ltd: www.ilis.ag
- Julia Herbert: citizenshipsolutions@icloud.com
- Marian-Barbara Hesse: hesse@bhesseandassociates.com  
B. Hesse & Associates: www.bhesseandassociates.com
- Radford Hill: r.hill@lawhillandhill.com  
Hill & Hill Chambers: www.lawhillandhill.com
- Alan Hosam: hosama@candw.ag  
AH Consultancy Services Ltd
- Kevin Hosam: kevin@ec-holdings.com  
EC Holdings: www.ec-holdings.com
- Kelvin John: johnk@candw.ag  
Thomas, John & Co: www.thomasjohn.com
- Nuri Katz: nkatz@apexcap.org  
Apex Capital Partners: www.apexcapital.partners
- Stuart Lockhart: clerks@lockhartlegalchambers.com  
Stuart Lockhart Legal Services: www.lockhartlegalchambers.com
- Abire Mansoor: amansoor@citizensinternational.com  
Citizens International: www.citizensinternational.com
- Kirthley Maginley: kmaginley@jamesandmaginley.com  
James & Maginley Ltd: www.jamesandmaginley.com
- Elizabeth Makhoul: emakhoul@artoncapital.com  
Arton Capital: www.artoncapital.com
- Maya Mansoor-Khouly: elevatcitizenship@gmail.com  
Elevate Citizenship & Realty Ltd: www.elevatcitizenship.com
- Juliette Marcelle-Bailey: jbailey@jamesandmaginley.com  
James & Maginley Ltd: www.jamesandmaginley.com
- Dr Amos Pradelli: apcarib@proton.me  
Lionfish Consulting
- Andrea Roberts-Nicholas: andrea.roberts@robertscolaw.com  
Roberts & Co: www.robertscolaw.com
- Vanetta Rodgers: vcredgers@avcocorp.com  
Avco Corporate Services Ltd: www.avcocorp.com
- Mei Tang: rmeitang@gcpantigua.com  
Global Citizenship Partners: www.gcpantigua.com
- Romell Tiwari: rtiwariantigualocalagent@usa.net  
AIT Management Services Ltd: www.aitms.ag
- Joseph Warner: info@jdwconsultingantigua.com  
JDW Consulting Ltd: www.jdwconsultingantigua.com
- Robert Wilkinson: robert.wilkinson@ag.gt.com  
Grant Thornton: www.grantthornton.ag
- Stanley Yang: stanleyyang1993@gmail.com

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

## JANUARY

### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA WELLNESS MONTH

ONE NATION MUSIC FESTIVAL | 10TH - 11TH

RORC TRANSATLANTIC RACE | 11TH  
[www.rorctransatlantic.rorc.org](http://www.rorctransatlantic.rorc.org)

WORLD'S TOUGHEST ROW | JANUARY 2026  
(rowers begin arriving into Antigua)  
[www.worldstoughestrow.com](http://www.worldstoughestrow.com)

## FEBRUARY

ROYAL OCEANIC RACE CLUB (RORC) CARIBBEAN 600 | 23RD  
[www.caribbean600.rorc.org](http://www.caribbean600.rorc.org)

## MARCH

15TH SUPERYACHT CHALLENGE | 3RD - 8TH  
[www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com](http://www.superyachtchallengeantigua.com)

PLAYING TO INSPIRE | 7TH  
[www.facebook.com/abysomusic](http://www.facebook.com/abysomusic)

SOOTHE: A NIGHT OF NEO-SOUL, JAZZ RHYTHMS, AND SPOKEN WORDS | 21ST  
[www.facebook.com/soothelounge](http://www.facebook.com/soothelounge)

## APRIL

### ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA REGATTA MONTH

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL | 6TH

ANTIGUA RACING CUP | 9TH - 12TH  
[www.antiguaracingcup.com](http://www.antiguaracingcup.com)

AUA ROHRMAN TRAIL & SWIM FEST | 11TH - 12TH

ANTIGUA CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA | 15TH - 20TH  
[www.antiguaclassics.com](http://www.antiguaclassics.com)

GARD CENTER FARM TO TABLE FUND RAISING LUNCHEON | 12TH

ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK | 22ND - 25TH  
[www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com)

## MAY

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA CULINARY MONTH  
[www.antiguabarbudaculinarymonth.com](http://www.antiguabarbudaculinarymonth.com)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA RESTAURANT WEEK | 3RD - 17TH  
[www.antiguandbarbudarestaurantweek.com](http://www.antiguandbarbudarestaurantweek.com)

ANNUAL ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SPORTS FISHING TOURNAMENT | 20TH - 24TH  
[www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com](http://www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com)

BARBUDA CARIBANA | 21ST - 25TH

FOOD, ART, AND BEVERAGE FESTIVAL | 23RD  
[www.antiguabarbudaculinarymonth.com](http://www.antiguabarbudaculinarymonth.com)

RUN IN PARADISE | 24TH

## JUNE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ROMANCE MONTH

## JULY

**ANTIGUA CARNIVAL: THE CARIBBEAN'S GREATEST SUMMER FESTIVAL | 25TH JUL - 4TH AUG**  
[www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com)

## AUGUST

**CARNIVAL MONDAY | 3RD**  
[www.antiguacarnival.com](http://www.antiguacarnival.com)

**CARNIVAL TUESDAY | 4TH**  
[www.antiguacarnival.com](http://www.antiguacarnival.com)

**URLINGS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL | 9TH**

**ANUCON | 16TH**

**CPL CRICKET | AUG - SEP**

## SEPTEMBER

**DEJAM FESTIVAL | 18TH - 23RD**

**FRANCIS NUNES JR. MEMORIAL FISHING TOURNAMENT & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL | 26TH**  
[www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com](http://www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com)

## OCTOBER

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS BEGIN**

## NOVEMBER

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY | 1ST**

**THE BEST IN THE WEST FISHING TOURNAMENT | 7TH**  
[www.facebook.com/BestInTheWestSportsFishingTournament](http://www.facebook.com/BestInTheWestSportsFishingTournament)

**JOLLY HARBOUR YACHT CLUB ANNUAL REGATTA**  
[www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com)

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TOURISM WEEK**

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ART WEEK | 25TH NOV - 1ST DEC**  
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**GEMONITES MOODS OF PAN FESTIVAL | 27TH - 29TH**

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A man wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, light blue shorts, and a straw hat is walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. He is holding a surfboard under his left arm. The ocean is in front of him, and the sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds illuminated by the setting or rising sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is peaceful and aspirational.

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# UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

with  
Rufus Gobat  
Director of Caribbean  
Lifestyle Services

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*"In terms of investment, I would highly recommend the Antigua & Barbuda option due to government stability, its track record of capital growth for real estate and the very high rental returns driven by its key location and infrastructure."*

**What spurred your initial interest and passion for the citizenship by investment industry?**

I had been developing Tamarind Hills in Antigua from 2008 and was very aware of the success of the CBI programme in St Kitts. I was then very fortunate to be invited to form part of the original CIP working group back in 2012. From a very early stage, the significant investment opportunity in public projects and private developments became apparent. It was certainly very successful for Tamarind Hills as well, with a big knock-on effect on jobs, duties and taxes.

**What do you consider the most pressing issue in the industry today?**

I believe the most pressing issue is to work closely and maintain open dialogue with key international partners, such as the USA, the EU, the UK and Canada. We have to demonstrate that the programmes are robustly managed, due diligence is stringent, and they can trust our processes will not allow bad actors to become citizens. We also have to show how important the programmes are to our economies.

**How would you like to see the industry evolve going forward?**

I would like to see more investment in systems and human resources to streamline the application processes. This could include more regional integration, especially with due diligence, to ensure faster responses. Some programmes do process faster than others, so regular meetings to discuss best practices would be great. Onboarding and training staff are, of course, key to processing more files more quickly. It is certainly not my area of expertise, but perhaps we need to invest more in AI solutions.

**What books are you reading, and which have inspired you most?**

For fiction, *A Gentleman in Moscow* is a great fun read and very interesting given the current focus on Russia. For non-fiction, I have just finished *Wine and War*, about the French efforts to save their wines and the wine industry during the Nazi occupation. It was a fascinating read as I am a massive fan of French wine, and the courage shown was inspirational.

→

*"We have to demonstrate that the programmes are robustly managed, due diligence is stringent and that they can trust our processes will not allow bad actors to become citizens."*

**Who is the person who has influenced you most in your life and career?**

I think in my life and business, possibly my dad has had the greatest influence. He always stressed the importance of listening to people, staying calm and always keeping your word. I am a big advocate of the idea that in any facet of business, whether in team building, crisis management or sales, you will always achieve more by listening rather than speaking. In my CIP career, it may surprise him, but from the early days I always looked up to Hakan Cortelek for where he came from and what he achieved.

**How would you appease critics of CBI programmes?**

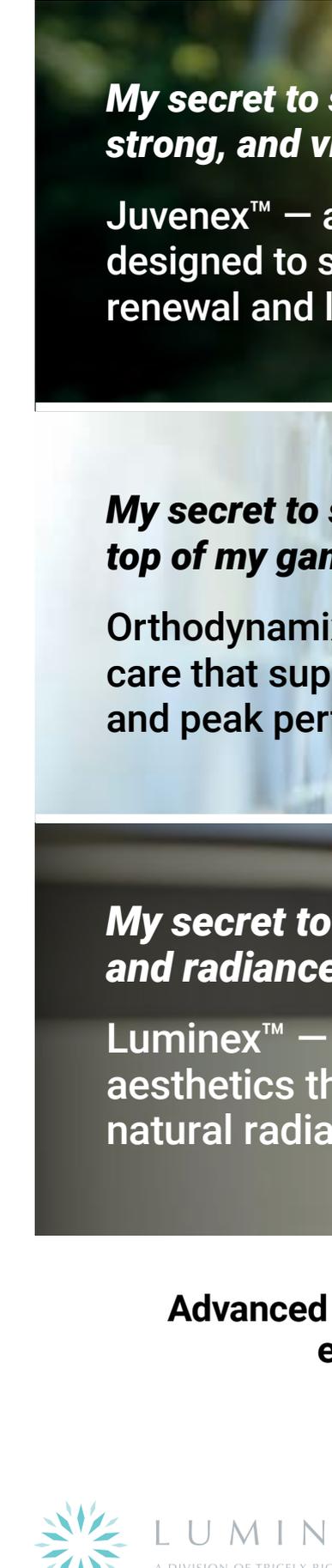
I think it would depend on why they are critics. If it is about the misuse of the programme by potentially malicious players, I would outline the rigorous safety and security measures we take. If the criticism is that citizenship is being demeaned or sold out, I would argue that all the major countries have long had investment tracks to citizenship, without any impact on the value of their citizenship.

**What would you say to anyone thinking about pursuing citizenship or investing in Antigua & Barbuda?**

In terms of investment, I would highly recommend the Antigua & Barbuda option due to government stability, its track record of capital growth for real estate and the very high rental returns driven by its key location and infrastructure. As a citizenship option, there are many benefits, not least the flexibility and ease it brings to international travel. There are highly developed educational options, such as the University of the West Indies, as well as internationally recognised medical schools. For some exploring citizenship, there may be strong personal tax benefits, as Antigua does not have personal income tax nor taxation on worldwide income. Lastly, it is also a very pleasant, safe and welcoming country to reside in.

**What is your favourite spot in the twin islands?**

I love wild, peaceful places that can only be accessed by water or off the beaten track, so there are lots of great options in Antigua. We are very lucky to have some beautiful offshore islands that are not as well-known as our beaches. However, my personal favourite is Rendezvous Beach, which holds many wonderful family memories. ●



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# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA AND AFRICA

## The link across the Atlantic

*The ties between Antigua & Barbuda and Africa are not new. They stretch back to the earliest days of the nation's history, when enslaved Africans were torn from their homelands and forced across the Atlantic. From that brutal passage came a heritage that has never been lost. Antigua's music, from the drumbeats of benna to the infectious rhythms of soca, carries the pulse of Africa. The national dish of pepperpot and fungi has its roots in West African cooking. Proverbs, dance, spirituality and resilience itself all echo the motherland. For generations, the connection has been cultural and emotional. Today Antigua & Barbuda is working to make it economic and political as well.*

**T**he government has been clear about the importance of deepening ties with Africa. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has often spoken about the need for small states to look beyond the traditional centres of power, and Africa has become a natural partner. Not only does it share the painful legacy of slavery and colonialism, but it is also a vast and growing market with ambitions that mirror those of the Caribbean. Antigua & Barbuda has also been active in the most recent Africa-CARICOM conversations. At the 2025 summit in Addis Ababa, Prime Minister Browne was one of the most vocal leaders, calling the gathering a historic chance to reshape relations across the Atlantic. He pressed for stronger

economic, cultural and political ties, but also put reparatory justice firmly on the table, urging that the descendants of enslaved Africans deserve more than words of sympathy. That summit reflected a wider momentum that has been steadily gathering pace. In recent years, the African Union and CARICOM have signed agreements aimed at deepening investment and collaboration, and the African Development Bank has formalised cooperation with the Caribbean Development Bank. These initiatives are laying the groundwork for real economic pathways across the Atlantic, and Antigua & Barbuda has been among the governments pushing

for such partnerships, recognising that cultural kinship can be the basis for practical cooperation. One area where progress is already being made is air connectivity. Antigua & Barbuda has partnered with Air Peace, a leading Nigerian airline that now holds majority shares in LIAT, the Antigua-based regional carrier, with plans to launch scheduled flights to Nigeria by early next year. The government has signed air service agreements with Rwanda, Ghana and Morocco, laying the groundwork for future direct links to the continent. Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez has said discussions are underway with RwandAir to begin services ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of

Government Meeting in Antigua next year. Prime Minister Browne has likewise spoken with Kenyan President William Ruto about exploring direct airlift, alongside wider diplomatic cooperation that could even see Antigua & Barbuda establish an embassy in Nairobi. These steps reflect not only ambition but intent, positioning Antigua as a true hub for African-Caribbean exchange, trade and tourism. Finance and trade are also moving up the agenda. Afreximbank, the African Export-Import Bank, has made clear its commitment to boosting transactions between the two regions, with trade projected to reach nearly US\$2 billion annually by the end of the decade. Guyana has already secured a US\$1 billion financing package for its oil services industry backed by African partners from Ghana, Egypt and South Africa. While Antigua & Barbuda does not share Guyana's oil wealth, it stands to benefit from Afreximbank's push to expand into the Eastern Caribbean. Cultural exchange, too, has enormous potential. Carnival, independence celebrations and other national events already showcase African heritage, and direct partnerships with African artists and performers could enrich them even further. Imagine Ghanaian drummers on stage in St John's or Antiguan soca stars touring West Africa. These are

THE PROMISE IS CLEAR.  
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA  
CAN SERVE AS A GATEWAY  
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AND AFRICA, CONNECTING  
TWO REGIONS WHOSE  
DESTINIES HAVE ALWAYS  
BEEN INTERTWINED

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the kinds of initiatives that could turn shared heritage into lived experience. Practical hurdles still need to be addressed. Both Africa and the Caribbean face challenges in transport and logistics, which can make trade more complicated than it should be. Limited shipping links and the absence of direct air services are obvious obstacles, and international benchmarks highlight the need for improvement. Yet these very gaps point to the opportunities ahead. Investment in better infrastructure and more efficient systems would not only ease trade but also strengthen the long-term foundations of partnership.

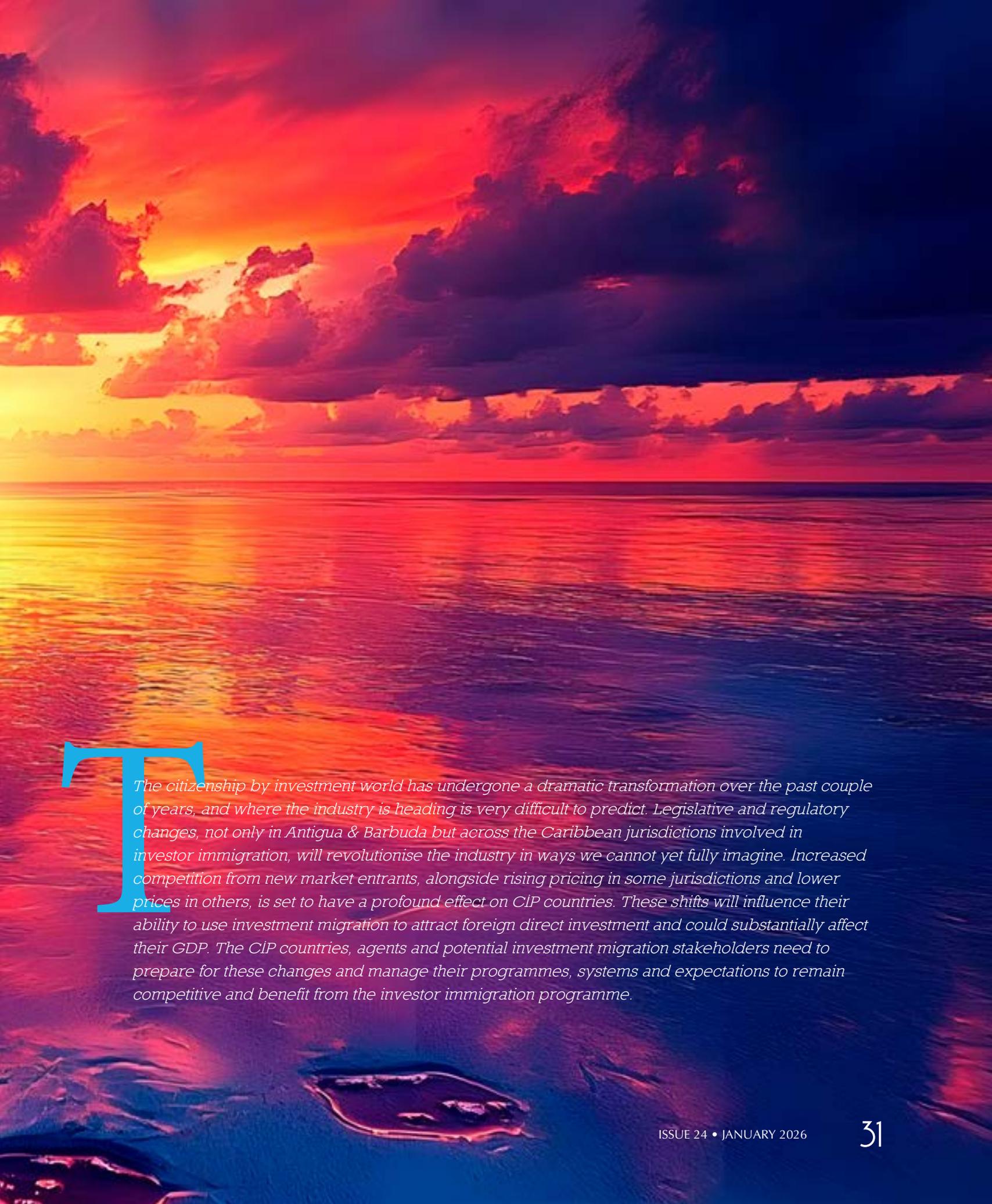
Still, the direction of travel is unmistakable. Antigua & Barbuda's own story is proof that resilience and ambition can overcome daunting odds. The nation has built a reputation for punching above its weight on the world stage, particularly in climate diplomacy, financial services and tourism. By placing itself at the heart of the Africa-Caribbean conversation, it is once again ensuring its voice is heard. For ordinary Antiguan and Barbudans, the benefits may take time to filter down, but the symbolism is powerful. To look across the Atlantic and see the distance not as a barrier but as a bridge is to reclaim history in a new way. It is to acknowledge the pain of the past while forging prosperity for the future. Every carnival drumbeat, every African-infused dish, every shared proverb already affirms the continuity of culture. What is changing now is that governments, banks and businesses are adding their weight, turning heritage into opportunity. The promise is clear. Antigua & Barbuda can serve as a gateway between the Caribbean and Africa, connecting two regions whose destinies have always been intertwined. History forced them together through suffering. The future may bind them together through choice, solidarity and success. ●



OPINION

by  
Nuri Katz  
President & CEO  
Apex Capital Partners

**SHIFTING TIDES:**  
*The future of Caribbean  
citizenship by investment*

A dramatic sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a vibrant palette of orange, red, and purple. The sun is partially obscured by the clouds on the left side of the frame. The ocean's surface is dark, with the sunset's colors reflecting on it. In the lower foreground, a small, dark island with a white shoreline is visible. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

**T***The citizenship by investment world has undergone a dramatic transformation over the past couple of years, and where the industry is heading is very difficult to predict. Legislative and regulatory changes, not only in Antigua & Barbuda but across the Caribbean jurisdictions involved in investor immigration, will revolutionise the industry in ways we cannot yet fully imagine. Increased competition from new market entrants, alongside rising pricing in some jurisdictions and lower prices in others, is set to have a profound effect on CIP countries. These shifts will influence their ability to use investment migration to attract foreign direct investment and could substantially affect their GDP. The CIP countries, agents and potential investment migration stakeholders need to prepare for these changes and manage their programmes, systems and expectations to remain competitive and benefit from the investor immigration programme.*

So, what is really going on? Here's how I see the landscape changing, what it means for the different stakeholders, and how to manage the changes to benefit from them.

In February 2023, Caribbean CBI programmes, including Antigua & Barbuda's, began a period of significant change. That month saw the first US Caribbean Roundtable on Citizenship by Investment, attended by the region's prime ministers and senior US officials. The leaders agreed on six principles to guide their programmes, covering

Lucia. This new body will serve as a single, regional body to bring consistency and stronger oversight to their citizenship by investment programmes. It aims to align rules across the board, strengthen oversight and enhance the integrity and transparency of the programmes in response to growing international scrutiny. The regulator will be transformative for the programmes.

The jump in pricing across the Caribbean programmes, in some cases a doubling, and the decision

The second major change introduced by the regional regulator will be a 30-day residency requirement. New citizens will now need to spend at least 30 days in their chosen country within the first five years of being granted citizenship. It is a change that carries both risks and incredible opportunities.

For years, most applicants viewed Caribbean citizenship primarily as a way to gain an additional passport. What mattered were visa-free access, the price and the speed of processing the citizenship. The country itself

*“Legislative and regulatory changes, not only in Antigua & Barbuda but across the Caribbean jurisdictions involved in investor immigration, will revolutionise the industry in ways we cannot yet fully imagine.”*

the handling of denials, mandatory interviews, programme audits, matters related to due diligence and the non-acceptance of applications from Russians and Belarusians. Further steps were taken in March and June 2024, when the CIP countries established a minimum price of US\$200,000 and backed the creation of a regional regulator to oversee the operation of citizenship by investment units and other industry stakeholders.

**The Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Regulatory Authority (ECCIRA)** was established in late 2025 by five Eastern Caribbean nations (Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis and St

to align those prices across all jurisdictions has changed the landscape entirely. Higher prices have already reduced application numbers and will continue to do so. With price competition between the Caribbean CIP countries now virtually erased, the countries will need to compete in other ways, emphasising the individuality of each island and what it can offer “beyond the passport”. This type of competition is new territory and will require fresh thinking as countries look to attract a much smaller pool of potential clients. The key question is whether higher prices will offset the decrease in clientele, so governments can maintain the levels of FDI they have grown accustomed to receiving from their CIP.

was often an afterthought. That will no longer be the case. Having to spend meaningful time in the country makes the choice of jurisdiction far more personal and far more important. It will deter some applicants, since a month in the Caribbean demands both time and money, but it also opens the door to opportunities the programmes have never fully harnessed.

Each CIP country will now need to welcome and host its new citizens, and, done well, this can unlock enormous long-term value. A positive experience can spark a genuine connection, encouraging people to buy property, invest in a business or simply return year after year. Instead of a one-off



*“Having to spend meaningful time in the country makes the choice of jurisdiction far more personal and far more important.”*

transaction centred on a passport, the relationship has the potential to evolve into multi-year, even multi-generational engagement with the islands.

The challenge will be managing the potential dip in demand, yet the opportunity to build deeper, more meaningful ties with every new citizen has never been greater.

The third significant change to be ushered in by the ECCIRA is its responsibility for licensing all types of agents involved in the industry. Until now, both Caribbean and overseas companies that promote the programmes and represent clients have been licensed. However, the licensing mechanism was not standardised, nor was there real, strict and objective oversight of the companies. That era is ending. And this is a very important change. Previously, the barrier to entry was low, and companies could obtain a licence without offering any real assurance of professionalism or accountability. Under ECCIRA, agents will need to meet consistent, enforceable standards similar to those required of immigration consultants in countries such as Canada and Australia. Obtaining and maintaining licenses will presumably become much more expensive and onerous. The licenses, which will include criminal and civil

liability for agents who breach the authority’s conditions, will certainly deter many existing agents and likely push them out of business. The result will almost certainly be higher fees from those with the resources to remain in the industry. Better regulation is a welcome change, as many agents, generally foreign with little connection to the islands, have taken advantage of unsuspecting clients for decades, giving the industry a serious black eye.

Another major effect of the ECCIRA will be deeper cooperation and more systematic work across the citizenship by investment units, particularly in the area of due diligence. Caricom’s joint Regional Communications Centre, the region’s main collective law enforcement agency, will play a much more critical role in coordinating the due diligence process. Combined with new AI tools, this should streamline the application process and make it more robust. This can only be seen as a positive change for the programmes moving forward.

Some other interesting issues in the Caribbean CIP space are worth noting. For Antigua & Barbuda, the recent change of government in St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) may present an interesting dilemma. Many expect the new administration

to move quickly to become the sixth country in the OECS to launch a citizenship by investment programme. It will be interesting to see how they create this and if they will join the ECCIRA and adhere to its requirements. Entering an already crowded field will not be easy, especially at a time when the Caribbean programmes are bracing for lower FDI. The new government in SVG will have to think long and hard, whatever commitments may have been made, as risks of joining the CIP world at this stage are considerable.

Finally, another emerging challenge for the Caribbean programmes is the arrival of new CIPs in São Tomé and Príncipe, Botswana and Nauru. These schemes offer far fewer travel benefits than the Caribbean passports. However, their pricing, reportedly starting at US\$75,000 in Botswana and US\$90,000 in São Tomé and Príncipe, will pose serious competition for clients interested in a second citizenship for reasons other than visa-free travel, as well as for those who are more price-sensitive.

Clearly, there are many challenges ahead for the Caribbean CIP world. However, every challenge brings an opportunity, and the chance to build closer relations with new citizens could pay off for Antigua & Barbuda and others in spades. ●

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## INTERVIEW

# Calvin Ayre

*C*alvin Ayre's journey from rural Canada to global business success is anything but conventional. Best known as the founder of the Bodog entertainment brand, he played a key role in shaping the online gambling industry, later turning his attention to emerging technologies such as blockchain and digital assets. Alongside his business ventures, Calvin is a committed philanthropist. Now, as a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda, he has poured significant investment into the nation. His latest venture, the Nikki Beach Resort & Spa Antigua, marks a bold new chapter in his efforts to elevate the country's luxury tourism offering. Calvin shares with us his thoughts on entrepreneurship, his passion for Antigua & Barbuda, and why giving back is just as important as building success.

**How did growing up on a pig farm in Saskatchewan shape your approach to business?**

Going to school every morning with pig crap on my boots taught me humility. It also taught me the value of hard work and the importance of teamwork. My dad instilled in me the belief that the worst day of working for yourself is better than the best day of working for somebody else. By the time I was old enough to strike out on my own, I was itching to spread my entrepreneurial wings. After graduating high school, my first real entrepreneurial effort paid for my university education. Once you see that kind of input-output in terms of effort expended and reward generated, you get hooked. Over time, your confidence and your conception of what's possible grow, so when you see an opportunity, you seize it. You don't always succeed, but I always say that I am where I am because I've succeeded far more often than I've failed.

**Bodog became a household name in online entertainment. How did you set it apart from the rest of the industry?**

From the start, we focused on customer service, an area that was sorely lacking in that business. That included prompt payments of winnings.

The industry was also somewhat faceless, as no one behind the leading gaming sites wanted any personal publicity. I chose to make myself the face of Bodog's branding campaign, meaning I was all over our marketing materials, helping personalise our brand with our audience and taking it to the next level.

We planned for contingencies like ACH payments, the system used for direct bank transfers, which few in the industry knew about. So, when credit card companies limited deposits, we launched our own version, Direct Bank Transfer, and gained a big chunk of market share before competitors caught on.

Diversifying the Bodog brand into non-gaming sectors like mixed martial arts, music and television production also helped expand our reach to audiences that might otherwise never have heard of us. All roads led back to the mothership – the gaming site – and by targeting sectors that resonated with our market of young men, we convinced many to check out our site as a future option.

**What first brought you to Antigua & Barbuda, and what made you decide to make it your permanent home?**

The gaming industry established a significant presence here early on, so I'd visited people I knew in Antigua over the years, and I always enjoyed my stays. During one trip, I was struck by the beauty of the place and the warmth of the people, and I started thinking I could live here someday. Almost two decades ago, I made it happen, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made.

While I'm an enthusiastic promoter of Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP), I'm proud to have earned my Antiguan citizenship the old-fashioned way: by

putting down roots and living here, interacting with the community on a daily basis, going on lengthy hikes, wakeboarding, trying out new restaurants, and just exploring all this beautiful island has to offer. If you see me, say hi!

**Nikki Beach adds a new dimension to the tourism scene. What was your vision, and what sets it apart?**

I've dabbled in a number of real estate projects over the years, including some of my personal residences around the globe. Just like business ventures, your design horizons expand as you gain confidence and experience, and these projects become more and more elaborate. I eventually wanted to take on something truly epic that pushed me beyond my comfort zone.

Since this resort would be a significant step forward in terms of scale, the people I chose to partner with needed to have a proven track record of success, quality and attention to detail. After speaking with Lucia Penrod, I was confident that the Nikki Beach Group ticked all those boxes and then some.

This is Nikki Beach's first resort in the Caribbean – the first in the Western Hemisphere, actually – so I know they want to hit a home run. Between their attention to luxurious detail and the stellar talents of HKS Architects and Roam Interior Design, this resort is going to knock people off their feet. I hope this project helps enhance Antigua's reputation among high-net-worth individuals. I want them to be as bowled over with this nation's beauty as I am, so they tell all their friends about what they're missing. I also hope they take advantage of the CIP options for those who choose to buy a branded residence. I want them to make Antigua their home away from home.

“I HOPE [NIKKI BEACH] HELPS ENHANCE ANTIGUA’S REPUTATION AMONG HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS. I WANT THEM TO BE AS BOWLED OVER WITH THIS NATION’S BEAUTY AS I AM, SO THEY TELL ALL THEIR FRIENDS ABOUT WHAT THEY’RE MISSING.”

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**How do you ensure your projects benefit local people?**

My companies always include local officials in the planning and local residents in the workforce. That’s not just being a good ‘corporate citizen’, it’s being a good citizen, period. It’s also smart business, because there’s nothing the people of this country can’t do if they’re given the opportunity, the right tools and proper guidance. There are hundreds of jobs being created in the resort’s development phase and hundreds more permanent positions once it opens to the public. Antiguan rock, and I know everyone will be doing their utmost to ensure this project is a success.

**What led you to branch into aviation with CalvinAir?**

Flying is just in my DNA. My dad flew his own plane when I was a kid, and I got my pilot’s license as soon as I was old enough. But CalvinAir came about mainly because I saw the business opportunity. High-net-worth

individuals generally value time over money and don’t want to conform to someone else’s schedule to get from Point A to Point B. And if that helps encourage them to establish a more permanent residence here, with all the related benefits for local businesses and such, so much the better.

I’m proud of CalvinAir’s success, and even more proud that we offer free medevac services to those in urgent need. It’s also enormously rewarding when we’re able to deploy our resources to search-and-rescue operations, where mere minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

**Of all the causes you’ve supported through the Calvin Ayre Foundation, which makes you most proud?**

Our educational initiatives, because I’ve always viewed education as the gift that keeps on giving. There are all sorts of intelligent kids who lack the means to nurture their gifts and turn their dreams into reality. Education allows people to become self-starters, regardless of the environment they were born into. When I visit schools, I tell kids that I was a good student and that whatever antics I got up to outside of school stopped the moment the bell rang in the morning. Like most things in life, you get out what you put in. So, I tell them, when in class, be there to learn. This opportunity might not come again, so make the most of it.

**How important are eco-friendly practices, and what are your views on balancing development with conservation?**

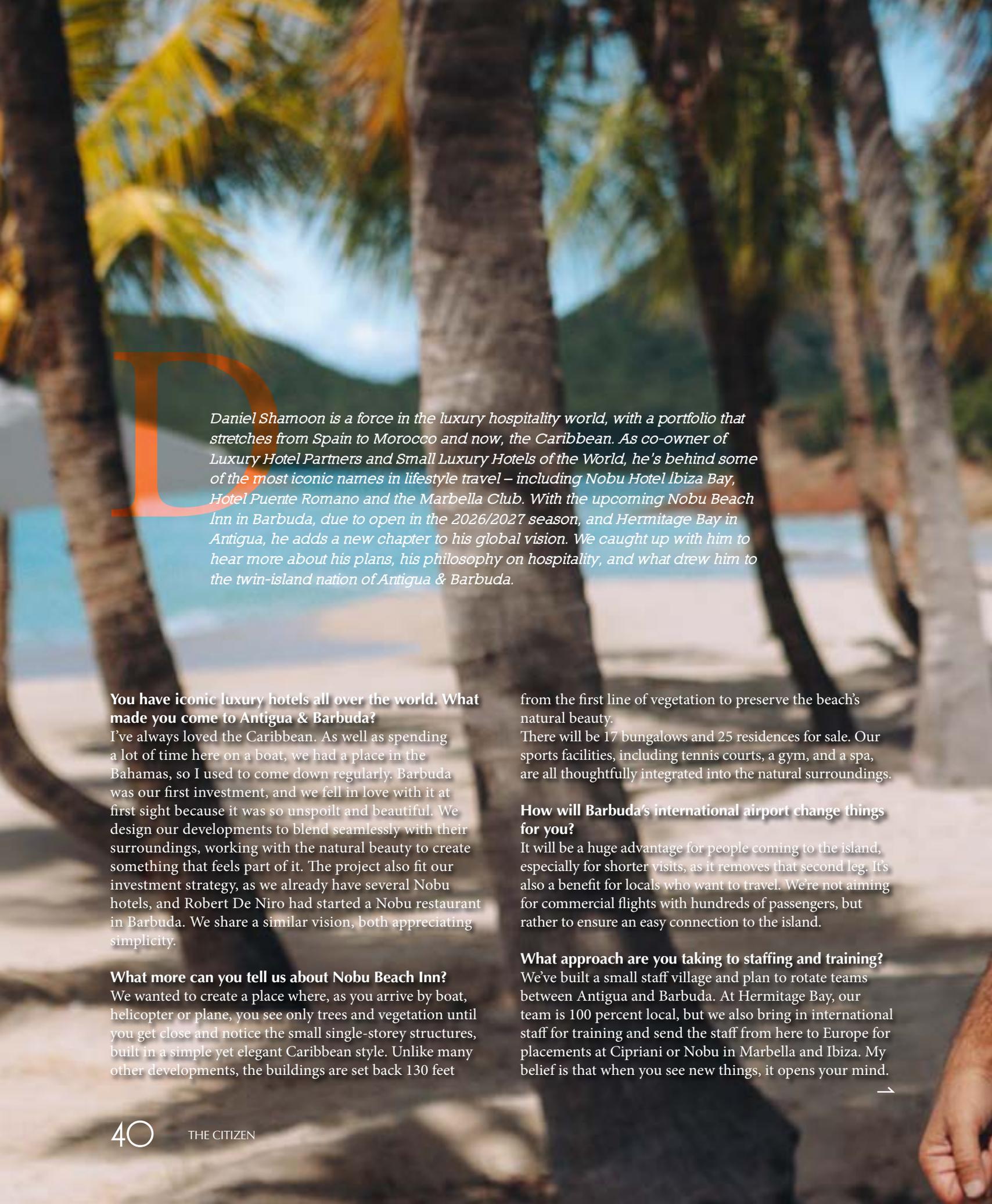
I sometimes get criticised for flying a lot, but my business operations are global, and often there’s just no substitute for being there in person. However, our operations have always emphasised energy efficiency, keeping our environmental ‘footprint’ as small as possible, and, wherever possible, relying on renewable energy.

When it comes to public sector development, too many people in the West like to lecture those in emerging markets about conservation, forgetting that people in developing nations just want to enjoy the same benefits the West has enjoyed for decades, if not centuries. That’s hypocritical in the extreme, given that much of the pollution and climate change impact has been caused by Western nations.

Many of the new public and private-sector projects in emerging markets are ‘cleaner’ than the legacy systems in Western countries. These days, it’s simply good business sense, as many of the ‘greener’ options can be less expensive in the long run.

**What’s next for you?**

As I get older, I’ve had more exposure to the wellness sector. There are a lot of new developments in this space that I’m curious to try, and I’m also interested in learning about potential business ventures. ●



**D**aniel Shamoan is a force in the luxury hospitality world, with a portfolio that stretches from Spain to Morocco and now, the Caribbean. As co-owner of *Luxury Hotel Partners* and *Small Luxury Hotels of the World*, he's behind some of the most iconic names in lifestyle travel – including *Nobu Hotel Ibiza Bay*, *Hotel Puente Romano* and the *Marbella Club*. With the upcoming *Nobu Beach Inn* in Barbuda, due to open in the 2026/2027 season, and *Hermitage Bay* in Antigua, he adds a new chapter to his global vision. We caught up with him to hear more about his plans, his philosophy on hospitality, and what drew him to the twin-island nation of Antigua & Barbuda.

**You have iconic luxury hotels all over the world. What made you come to Antigua & Barbuda?**

I've always loved the Caribbean. As well as spending a lot of time here on a boat, we had a place in the Bahamas, so I used to come down regularly. Barbuda was our first investment, and we fell in love with it at first sight because it was so unspoilt and beautiful. We design our developments to blend seamlessly with their surroundings, working with the natural beauty to create something that feels part of it. The project also fit our investment strategy, as we already have several Nobu hotels, and Robert De Niro had started a Nobu restaurant in Barbuda. We share a similar vision, both appreciating simplicity.

**What more can you tell us about Nobu Beach Inn?**

We wanted to create a place where, as you arrive by boat, helicopter or plane, you see only trees and vegetation until you get close and notice the small single-storey structures, built in a simple yet elegant Caribbean style. Unlike many other developments, the buildings are set back 130 feet

from the first line of vegetation to preserve the beach's natural beauty.

There will be 17 bungalows and 25 residences for sale. Our sports facilities, including tennis courts, a gym, and a spa, are all thoughtfully integrated into the natural surroundings.

**How will Barbuda's international airport change things for you?**

It will be a huge advantage for people coming to the island, especially for shorter visits, as it removes that second leg. It's also a benefit for locals who want to travel. We're not aiming for commercial flights with hundreds of passengers, but rather to ensure an easy connection to the island.

**What approach are you taking to staffing and training?**

We've built a small staff village and plan to rotate teams between Antigua and Barbuda. At Hermitage Bay, our team is 100 percent local, but we also bring in international staff for training and send the staff from here to Europe for placements at Cipriani or Nobu in Marbella and Ibiza. My belief is that when you see new things, it opens your mind.

A man with dark hair, wearing sunglasses and a white button-down shirt, stands outdoors in a tropical setting. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is filled with palm trees and other tropical foliage, with a thatched-roof building visible in the distance. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

INTERVIEW

# Daniel Shamoon

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**How many hotels do you have in your portfolio?**

We have 17 in total. Some have around 20 rooms, while others have up to 300, but our focus is generally on small, boutique hotels. What unites the portfolio is that each one is deeply connected to its location rather than being a replica of the next. Upon waking in the morning, you immediately know where you are.

The market is moving in that direction. People want intimacy and the personal attention that comes with staying in a smaller property. At Hermitage Bay, probably the biggest compliment we receive is how well the staff treat the guests.

**How did purchasing Hermitage Bay come about?**

I was introduced to the previous owner, Andy, through a friend. Selling to me was a very personal decision for him, as he and his wife had been with the hotel since its inception 17 years ago, and his daughter had grown up there. He wanted the hotel to go into the right hands, and among the different suitors, he felt we were best placed to carry forward his vision and maintain the strong family relationship with the staff.

*"For me, as well as it being one of the most beautiful islands, it's the people (who make it special). I've travelled to many other places, and I would genuinely say, without any bias, they're the nicest people I've ever met."*

**You've also recently taken over Jacqui O's on Valley Church Beach?**

Yes. I was driving past one day and thought it was the most beautiful spot on the island. The sea is always perfect, and you have Montserrat right in front of you. We decided to see if we could purchase it, and we did.

Hermitage Bay is a very peaceful environment, and we wanted somewhere a bit livelier where guests could socialise while enjoying international-level cuisine and service. We also wanted to create something for the island itself – a place where people can spend the whole day, similar to what we've done in Marbella and Ibiza, although we're still developing the concept.

**What is your favourite place on the island?**

Hands down, it's Pinching Bay. Every time we have guests, we take them there by boat. The sunset is visible from that spot, and with its natural pools and beautiful beach, it's magical. Everyone is always amazed and often say it's the best day of their life when we go there.

That for me is luxury. There's a theory about the five stages of luxury: the first is something ostentatious, while the final

stage is a return to simplicity and not needing anything else. That's the purest form of luxury.

**What else is essential for you in today's luxury experience?**

The basic elements are crucial. You can have the simplest resort, but you still need an incredible shower and a very comfortable bed. A television should be optional. We want to create the freedom to disconnect, and I've noticed our guests do that in different ways. For example, one half of a couple might love to relax all day, while the other would go crazy doing that. We offer activities like fishing and hiking for those who want to move, while others can just unwind. Hermitage Bay is our only adults-only property, but at our family hotels we create an ambience where children and adults can enjoy themselves together or separately.

**What can you tell us about your philanthropic work?**

I've always had a desire to give back. Since I was very young, I've sponsored children in Africa, and my parents always told me off for adopting dogs!

When my daughter was born 13 years ago, I felt so honoured to become a father that I wanted to do more. I'd been sponsoring a child through World Vision for years, so I asked what else I could do. They explained they run four-year projects to help communities become self-sufficient. If we raised the first 20 percent of the funding, the World Bank or the European Bank would contribute the remaining funds. We began organising galas and events, and now, 13 years later, we're on our fourth project. We also support The Children's Trust in the UK, which helps children with brain injuries, and the Triple A animal shelter in Marbella. We'd love to do more in the twin islands as well.

**What makes Antigua so special?**

For me, as well as it being one of the most beautiful islands, it's the people. I've travelled to many other places, and I would genuinely say, without any bias, they're the nicest people I've ever met. They're happy, and if you're kind, they like you, no matter how much money you have or who you are. That's what makes me want to come back, and our guests feel the same. Antiguan love to party too; everyone seems to be a musician! ●

“

As a digital nomad,  
Tuesday pretty much  
looks like Saturday

”





NEW CITIZEN

## TONI HALLIDAY & ALAN MOULDER

Toni Halliday and Alan Moulder are among the newest citizens of Antigua & Barbuda. Toni is best known as the singer and songwriter of Curve, a pioneering '90s alternative band, while Alan is a Grammy-award-winning mixer and producer whose work has shaped the sound of some of the world's most influential artists. Having found themselves captivated by Antigua's warmth, beauty and easy pace of life, they have decided to put down roots and become citizens of the twin-island nation.

*"We had travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean islands, but when we visited Antigua on holiday in 2022 we fell in love with the place. We love how green the island is and how friendly the people are."*

### **What first brought you to Antigua, and what were your first impressions of the island?**

(Alan) We had been living in London for 40 years and felt it was time for a change. I had been working in darkened rooms for years and we both quite fancied a bit of sun! We had travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean islands, but when we visited Antigua on holiday in 2022 we fell in love with the place. We love how green the island is and how friendly the people are.

(Toni) There were a few elements that came together at the same time. Firstly, our beloved whippet died, and we were devastated. I had decided to retire as well and wanted something to do. We have a lot of friends who like being on boats and we have been on many sailing holidays where our friends would skipper. I was brought up in the Mediterranean on a boat as a child, and I was keen to gain some proper sailing skills, so this beautiful island we had visited two years earlier suddenly became a very interesting prospect to us.

### **What inspired you to pursue Antigua & Barbuda citizenship?**

(Alan) Because we wanted to lay some roots here, it made sense to go for citizenship. We intend to live here rather than just come on holiday, so having to renew a visa every three months would not be very practical.

(Toni) In hindsight, I think we wanted a real change of pace, so anywhere we went we would have wanted to live rather than just visit.

### **Why did you choose the real estate route as the path to citizenship?**

(Alan) We wanted to make a meaningful contribution to the country, and building a nice home seemed a very good way to do that.

(Toni) After my music career I went into property development and absolutely loved it. It was a no-brainer for me that we would take the real estate option. We get to invest in this country with something solid, a tangible asset.

### **How would you describe the process of applying for citizenship?**

(Alan) It's not easy! We can certainly reassure people that thorough due diligence is conducted. I've heard people imply that passports are freely given away. Believe me, that was not our experience.

(Toni) The process was thorough, but we felt that the application process was completely correct. All due diligence is outsourced, and no stone was left unturned with our application. To be honest, I have no idea what more the CIP programme could do. Every country in the world has very similar programmes to encourage growth and to attract a diverse cross-section of people to invest in their countries. We were so happy when we got approved

### **After so many years in the high-energy environment of the music industry, how have you found the shift to Antigua's gentler pace?**

(Alan) It's wonderful! We both feel a lot more relaxed and happier. Just driving around the island puts a smile on our face, especially if that drive is heading for the beach.

(Toni) I can only back up what Alan has said. This pace of life suits us, and the temperature suits our bones too!

### **Has the atmosphere of Antigua sparked any new ideas or creative directions for you, and are you involved in anything musically while you're here?**

(Alan) I'm still working from here. I'm only mixing records now and have had a good 18 months of work here. Has being here affected the way I mix? I'm not really sure, but my mixes seem to have plenty of bass in them these days.

(Toni) I'm gently easing my way into life here, making a lot of beautiful new friends and eating out a lot. Alan recently mixed Wet Leg's new album, and they have received three Grammy nominations this year for an album mixed entirely in Antigua. I'm so proud of Alan and the band, who are awesome.

### **What is your favourite spot on the island so far?**

(Alan) There are quite a few, but we love Half Moon Bay. The view as you drive down is stunning.

(Toni) I love Runaway Beach by Casa Roots as well as Half Moon Bay, Green Island, Rendezvous Bay, Darkwood, the list goes on and on.

### **What would you say to others considering Antigua & Barbuda citizenship?**

(Alan) We have already convinced some friends to come and join us. We absolutely love it here, and it's great to live in a country with an optimistic outlook and an upward trajectory. We couldn't recommend it more.

(Toni) Don't even question it. Kick off your shoes and take a leap of faith and start living life island style, it's beautiful. ●

# *What does the art of small luxury mean to you?*

It is the quiet confidence of being anticipated, cared for and welcomed as if you already belong. A vacation without rules, where your time, space and experience adapt effortlessly to you.

**Jeff Wellemeyer** | Owner, Hodges Bay Resort and Spa

It embodies the spirit of charm, elegance and personalisation without being pretentious. In our resort, it is a place where you become a name instead of a room number, a place where you come as guests and leave as friends.

**Kevin Phillips** | General Manager, Blue Waters Resort & Spa

It's great service delivered by people who genuinely enjoy what they do and care about the client. It's staying somewhere that is beautiful but never pretentious, where you can enjoy the simple joys of life.

**Alex Thursby** | Owner, Pearn's Bay House

Creating moments that make a guest feel genuinely cared for, without needing excess. It's the difference between "nice hotel" and "I can't wait to come back."

**Diana Cameron** | General Manager, Siboney Beach Club

A refined yet relaxed guest experience, defined by personal attention, discreet execution, a commitment to sustainability and uncompromising standards.

**Poonam Agarwalla** | Director, Tamarind Hills Resort & Villas

Small luxury means allowing place, history and people to take centre stage. It is about thoughtful design, genuine service and creating an atmosphere where luxury is felt through emotion rather than scale.

**Susanna Addari** | Owner, The Inn at English Harbour

It evokes a sense of timeless elegance, subtle sophistication and refined simplicity. This means genuine Caribbean warmth and meaningful connections that make them feel special, all of which aligns with our ethos of "Gracious Hospitality".

**Gaye Hechme** | Director, Moon Gate Hotel & Spa

It's about the small details. Not flash wealth or excess, but soft lamp light instead of harsh overheads. A chilled glass of water before you realise you're thirsty. Crisp linen and personalised service that appears only when you need it.

**Daniel Shamoon** | Owner, Hermitage Bay





COVER  
STORY

# THE ART OF SMALL LUXURY

## A boutique blueprint

**I**n Antigua & Barbuda, bigger has never meant better. A tiny nation, albeit with a big voice, the islands have long understood that small can be beautiful. Mass tourism has never set the tone here, and there is no appetite to chase it now. Instead, Antigua & Barbuda attract visitors who value privacy, excellent service, rich culture and, of course, some of the best beaches in the world.

The islands reward those who slow down and choose well. Boutique hotels make that easy, which is why they are the places people talk about, return to and recommend long after they have gone home.

Antigua & Barbuda does small well. In the right hands, that is where the real luxury lives.

## Where small feels extraordinary

By Dean Fenton

**I**n Antigua & Barbuda, luxury is understated. It lies in the picturesque setting, the beautifully designed spaces and the freedom to explore without a fixed itinerary. As travellers continue to favour meaningful experiences over mass tourism, the twin islands have emerged as a natural fit for boutique luxury. After all, as the locals say, nothing passes our palm trees.

Luxury boutique hotels have become an essential part of Antigua & Barbuda's appeal. These intimate properties attract travellers who want more than a beautiful room and are looking for a more personal experience. By hiring locally, sourcing island-made goods and collaborating with artisans, chefs, and guides, boutique hotels help keep tourism dollars circulating within the community, supporting local culture and the wider economy.

Unlike large resorts, boutique hotels offer stays that reflect individual character and their surroundings. Architecture often draws on island heritage, interiors showcase Caribbean craftsmanship and menus celebrate local flavours. Guests are encouraged to explore beyond the beach, gaining a glimpse into everyday life in a way that feels both natural and effortless.

Service is attentive and personal. Staff members remember names, preferences and stories, offering tailored recommendations and insider tips that add another layer to the vacation. Whether it is a private sailing excursion at sunset, dinner at a locally owned restaurant, or a quiet morning on a secluded beach, each stay unfolds at an unhurried pace.

Sustainability also plays an important role for many boutique hotels. Their smaller scale allows for a lighter environmental footprint, appealing to travellers who value preservation alongside luxury and comfort. By dispersing visitors across the islands and away from overcrowded hotspots, boutique hotels help protect fragile ecosystems while offering guests a more peaceful, rewarding stay.

*“Luxury boutique hotels have become an essential part of Antigua & Barbuda's appeal.”*

Location is another key part of the appeal. Many boutique properties sit in prime yet peaceful settings, with beaches, historic sites, restaurants and cultural attractions within easy reach. Their scale encourages a relaxed atmosphere, with guests often gathering in shared spaces and leaving with new friendships and lasting memories.

What truly sets boutique luxury apart in Antigua & Barbuda is how it stays with people long after departure. These stays make travellers feel less like tourists and more like temporary locals. It's a kind of luxury that lingers, defined not by excess but by authenticity and warmth.

For travellers who value character over scale, Antigua & Barbuda's boutique hotels show how small feels extraordinary.



## TAMARIND HILLS RESORT & VILLAS

*Easy elegance on Antigua's west coast*

**T**amarind Hills Resort & Villas Antigua sits on the calm, west coast shores of Ffryes Beach, where turquoise waters, open sea views and lingering sunsets set the tone for a relaxed Caribbean escape. This boutique luxury resort and CIP-approved residential development enjoys an enviable ocean-front position, offering guests and residents a front-row seat to one of Antigua's most admired stretches of coastline.

Life at Tamarind Hills unfolds at an easy pace. Beach-front dining, wellness experiences and daily activities are complemented by a personalised concierge service that allows each stay to feel individual rather than programmed. Whether visiting for a romantic getaway, a family holiday or a more private retreat, the mood is quietly refined and effortlessly comfortable.

Beyond its appeal as a resort, Tamarind Hills also presents a selection of freehold real estate and real estate business investment opportunities for discerning lifestyle buyers and citizenship by investment applicants. It is a place designed not only for memorable stays, but for those considering a longer connection with Antigua's west coast and its distinctive way of life.

Tamarind Hills Resort & Villas is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

[www.tamarindhills.com](http://www.tamarindhills.com)



## THE INN AT ENGLISH HARBOUR

*Where Antigua begins to feel like home*

**N**ot everyone arrives in Antigua for a short stay. Some come with time on their side, to explore neighbourhoods, understand the rhythm of daily life, and consider what it might feel like to stay a little longer or even become a citizen. For those looking to spend an extended period on the island, particularly while laying the foundations for a future connection to Antigua, the choice of accommodation becomes part of the overall experience.

The island offers no shortage of accommodation focused on traditional beach-centred holidays. Naturally, The Inn at English Harbour welcomes guests seeking rest and relaxation, but it also appeals to those who wish to experience Antigua beyond the confines of a resort, without compromising on comfort or understated luxury.

Set within Antigua's national park, The Inn is a boutique resort with 31 delightfully designed suites, combining space and tranquillity in a setting rich in history and natural beauty. Tennis courts, a spa, gym, infinity pool, two restaurants and a luscious bougainvillea-filled garden that leads directly to the beach make it just as attractive to linger on the property as it is to go and explore the island.





Its location adds to the overall ease of staying there. English Harbour is a well-established area with an international community and a lived-in feel that offers a glimpse of everyday life in Antigua. For those who anticipate spending meaningful time on island, whether over several visits or a longer stay, including new citizens coming for their residency obligations, The Inn provides both practicality and a genuine home-away-from-home atmosphere. The bed-and-breakfast format allows for flexibility and independence, leaving guests free to structure their days as they wish.

Many return because The Inn feels reassuringly familiar. It offers discretion and comfort without the formality or distractions of an all-inclusive resort. It suits those who value privacy, autonomy and a quieter expression of luxury.

This sense of comfort is intentional. The Italian owner, an art historian, curates rather than decorates. Antique furnishings, original artwork and fine linens give the property a distinctly personal, eclectic character. Staying at The Inn feels less like checking into a hotel and more like being welcomed into a refined private home, where service is impeccable but discreet.

It is this combination of familiarity and elegance that draws people back. Some places are designed to be visited once. The Inn at English Harbour is for those who return, because Antigua has begun to feel like more than just a destination.

[www.theinnantigua.com](http://www.theinnantigua.com)

## Antigua & Barbuda Boutique by nature

**B**outique travel works best when it grows organically from a place rather than being introduced artificially. In Antigua & Barbuda, the conditions for boutique travel existed long before any label was applied. The country's scale, geography and culture all favour experiences that feel natural and personal, a world away from the mass tourism or ostentatious luxury of some other destinations.

The size of the islands plays a central role. Distances are short, yet the change in scenery can be dramatic. On the east coast, the Atlantic brings a wilder edge, with open water, trade winds and rugged headlands. Move south or west and the sea softens, beaches become calmer and harbours more sheltered. Inland, pockets of rainforest and rolling countryside add another layer altogether. These shifts happen within minutes, not hours, allowing visitors to arrange their days with ease. This is not an environment that suits large resorts built around uniformity. It naturally favours smaller hotels that reflect their surroundings.

Antigua & Barbuda has never been shaped around mass tourism. There are no large entertainment districts or oversized attractions designed to move visitors through a set itinerary. Instead, the islands suit those who prefer to set their own pace. Boutique hotels fit naturally into this pattern, offering a more personal way to stay for those who prefer to travel on their own terms.

Culturally, the islands encourage connection. The local people are known for being warm and friendly. Conversations start easily, and visitors feel immediately at ease, like they belong and not just passing through. It is an environment where smaller hotels, often owner-led and service-focused, feel appropriate. They mirror the way people are welcomed across the islands, with familiarity that feels natural rather than formal.

*“The country's scale, geography and culture all favour experiences that feel natural and personal, a world away from the mass tourism or ostentatious luxury of some other destinations.”*

Barbuda is boutique in its very nature. Vast, open and sparsely populated, it strips travel back to essentials. Here, boutique travel is not a stylistic choice but a consequence of environment. Although a new airport has made the island more accessible, it is not designed for volume. Space, quiet and time define the experience.

The prominence of boutique hotels in Antigua & Barbuda has not been engineered. They have emerged because they suit the place, not because they were created to follow a trend. For travellers drawn to character over crowds and atmosphere over excess, this offers something increasingly rare. Here, boutique hotels do not feel like an alternative, but simply the way things are done.



Pearns Bay House

ANTIGUA



Discover  
Pearn's Bay House

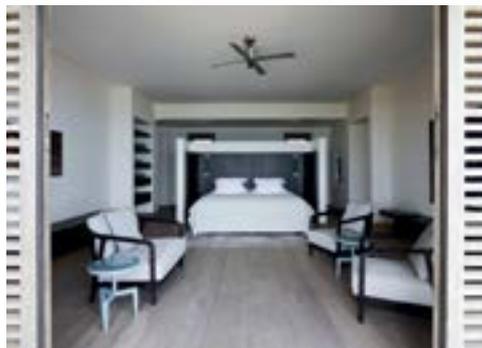
## Property Highlights

- ✓ Six, super-king ensuite bedrooms
- ✓ Infinity pool
- ✓ Direct beach access
- ✓ Private team of dedicated staff
- ✓ Luxury, designed interiors
- ✓ Exclusive hire for a minimum of five nights

Experience Antigua's most refined private retreat. An exclusive haven where considered design and discreet service shape every moment.

Set on the secluded Pearn's Point peninsula, Pearn's Bay House pairs effortless indoor-outdoor living with horizon-wide sea views and lush, landscaped grounds.

Unhurried days unfold at your pace, attentively supported and thoughtfully in tune with the island, embracing sustainable practices to create island living, elevated in privacy, beauty, and comfort.



Escape the ordinary with a trip to Pearn's Bay House, where laidback luxury and tropical tranquility reign supreme.

Contact a member of our dedicated team to enquire about availability and start planning your trip to paradise.

**Enquire now:**

[enquiries@pearnsbayhouse.com](mailto:enquiries@pearnsbayhouse.com)  
[www.pearnsbayhouse.com](http://www.pearnsbayhouse.com)



## HODGES BAY RESORT & SPA

### *A meeting of art and ocean*

**Y**ou know immediately that Hodges Bay is not playing by the usual rules.

This is not a cookie-cutter beach hotel built to blend quietly into the Caribbean backdrop. It announces itself with confidence, from its bold architecture to the contemporary art that greets you long before you reach the shoreline. Yet beneath that confidence sits a hotel that feels intimate and approachable, boutique in spirit rather than defined by scale, and refreshingly relaxed in its outlook.

Positioned on Antigua's northern tip, the property was reimaged as the flagship hotel for HQ Hotels & Residences by sbe, the lifestyle brand founded

by Sam Nazarian in partnership with Marc Anthony and Wyndham's Registry Collection. This was not simply a relaunch or a refurbishment. It was a signal that Antigua is firmly on the map as a stage for global hospitality brands with ambition, personality and reach.

Introduced in 2019 after 13 years in the making, Hodges Bay occupies eight acres of beachfront and landscaped grounds. While generous in space, the boutique resort never feels overwhelming. Its clean-lined architecture leans into a modern bohemian aesthetic, while remaining rooted in its laidback island setting.



*“The country’s scale, geography and culture all favour experiences that feel natural and personal, a world away from the mass tourism or ostentatious luxury of some other destinations.”*

a 22-foot sculpture by contemporary artist Brendan Murphy, standing at the end of the pier. The piece has become one of the most recognisable artworks in Antigua and one of the Caribbean’s most photographed landmarks.

Accommodation mirrors this modern outlook while retaining a sense of island warmth. Rooms, suites and residences are designed for comfort and usability, with generous terraces, ocean views and layouts that suit both short stays and longer visits. This flexibility is particularly relevant for those exploring Antigua’s Citizenship by Investment Programme.

Dining adds another layer to the experience. A short boat ride away, guests have exclusive access to nearby Prickly Pear Island for a desert-island, barefoot lunch amid crystal-clear shallows and sandbars. Back at the resort, White Sands serves Mediterranean-inspired cuisine beachfront throughout the day, while NaCl offers a more refined approach focused on contemporary flavours and seafood. The forthcoming opening of Katsuya Beach will further expand the resort’s culinary offering. Led by world-renowned chef Katsuya Uechi, the Antigua outpost marks the global debut of the Katsuya Beach concept and builds on a nearly two-decade legacy that has made Katsuya one of the most recognisable Japanese dining brands in the world. Designed specifically for Hodges Bay’s beachfront setting, the menu reworks signature dishes with a lighter, island-driven sensibility, blending elevated Japanese cuisine with the ease of Caribbean beach life.

Wellness at Hodges Bay centres on the sumptuous Spa La Boheme, a calm retreat offering indulgent treatments and thermal facilities designed for deep relaxation. Tennis and water sports are available for those who wish to stay active.

For CBI applicants, Hodges Bay offers a compelling option. Approved real estate opportunities within a branded, internationally recognised hotel environment provide both lifestyle benefits and a structured investment pathway. The location, the branding and the managed hospitality element combine to create an offering that speaks to a new generation of global citizens who want their investment to feel personal, usable and relevant.

Hodges Bay may be modern and forward-looking, but it is also warm, inclusive and with personalised service. Boutique luxury without a dress code, it reflects an Antigua that is comfortable with where it is and excited about where it is going.

[www.hodgesbay.com](http://www.hodgesbay.com)

The atmosphere is deliberately unstuffy, appealing equally to couples, friends travelling together and multigenerational families looking for a place that feels welcoming rather than formal.

Art is central to Hodges Bay’s identity. It is not confined to a single gallery wall or tucked discreetly into corridors. Indeed, the hotel is home to one of the most extensive contemporary art collections in the West Indies. Creativity is woven throughout the property, from bold murals to large-scale installations that stop guests in their tracks. The most iconic of these is the Boonji Spaceman,

## Discovering Antigua the boutique way

Staying in one of Antigua & Barbuda's smaller, more personal hotels is often about more than where you sleep. It is a conscious choice to experience the islands at a gentler pace, to connect with people and place, and to avoid anything that feels crowded or formulaic. Fortunately, the twin island nation lends itself beautifully to intimate experiences that feel personal rather than packaged, a million miles away from mass tourism.

For those seeking a truly standout experience, a helicopter trip to Barbuda is hard to beat. The flight itself offers breathtaking views of turquoise shallows and coral reefs before touching down on an island known for its pink-sand beaches and unspoilt landscapes. Whether it is a relaxed lunch at Nobu, a beach walk or simply time spent absorbing the stillness, Barbuda feels like a world away from everyday life.

Indeed, food is a gateway to understanding the islands. Antigua has wonderful restaurants scattered across the island. Exploring these smaller, locally loved spots is part of the pleasure, but certain experiences elevate dining into something memorable. A short boat trip to The Hut on Little Jumbie, for example, combines barefoot luxury with a sense of escape. For a limited-edition dining experience, a two-month pop-up by La Petite Maison at Hermitage Bay brings the spirit of the Riviera to an intimate Caribbean setting, creating an experience that feels fleeting and quietly special. Or for something more personal, a cookery class with a local chef offers a hands-on way to take that culinary discovery a step further and understand Antiguan culture through its food.

Of course, Antigua's culture extends far beyond the table. Getting to know the islands' culture often means meeting the people who interpret it through art. Visiting studios, galleries and workshops offers insight into local stories, landscapes and traditions, often in settings far removed from the usual visitor trail. For some, the experience becomes even more meaningful through discovering a piece to take home, a lasting connection to the islands.

*“For those seeking a truly standout experience, a helicopter trip to Barbuda is hard to beat.”*

On an island like Antigua, the sea is omnipresent. As one of the most celebrated sailing destinations in the world, it is renowned for steady trade winds, protected waters and a network of inviting offshore islands. Hiring a yacht for the day, complete with an experienced captain and, if desired, a private chef, allows visitors to experience this reputation firsthand. Days unfold at an unhurried pace, with time to anchor in quiet bays, snorkel over reefs or simply enjoy the freedom of being on the water without a timetable.

What makes these experiences particularly appealing for travellers is how easily they can be tailored. Knowledgeable concierges are often happy to curate days around individual interests, ensuring each experience feels effortless, considered and uniquely personal.

In Antigua, boutique experiences are not about doing more, but about doing things differently.



## SIBONEY BEACH CLUB

### *An intimate beachfront hotel on Dickenson Bay*

**T**ucked into tropical gardens on Dickenson Bay, Siboney Beach Club offers an intimate four-star beachfront escape on one of the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches.

Blending contemporary comfort with a genuine sense of place, Siboney invites guests to slow down, explore local culture and enjoy Antigua on their own terms.

Our welcoming team ensures every detail is taken care of, while still allowing you the freedom to shape your stay exactly as you wish.

Relaxed, personal and perfectly positioned, this is beachfront living, done differently.

[www.siboneybeachantigua.com](http://www.siboneybeachantigua.com)

## What constitutes a perfect stay?

The idea of a perfect stay is certainly subjective. Ask ten people and you will get ten different answers.

A perfect stay often begins before arrival and upon arrival. A thoughtful message, a sense that someone is really interested in you, rather than simply ticking boxes. Someone who understands that travel to Antigua & Barbuda is something special for its visitors. People come here for anniversaries, reunions, escapes and celebrations and they deserve more than a generic welcome. When you step through the door and are greeted by name, it sets the tone for what is to come. You are not room 214. You are a guest, and a valued one at that.

The best service is not stiff or rehearsed. It is warm, instinctive and deeply Caribbean. True service with a smile. The sort where the breakfast waiter remembers how you take your coffee by the second morning and asks whether the sea was calm when you went swimming at dawn. In the best places, staff are not “performing” hospitality. They live it. Many grew up nearby, know which beaches stay quiet even in high season and which roadside shack does the best fungee and pepperpot. Their recommendations are personal and genuine.

Food is another marker of a perfect stay. At boutique hotels across Antigua & Barbuda, the focus is on flavour and freshness rather than excess. Perfect food features mouthwatering tropical fruits, the freshest fish and seafood plucked straight from the sea, all prepared with that Antiguan flair. And of course, the view while dining is usually to die for. Nothing is hurried, nothing is “fast food”.

Of course, the islands beckon beyond the hotel gates if you can drag yourself away. But a perfect stay is one where there is no pressure to rush out. A hammock, a book, a view and a well-timed drink can be more than enough. And if you want to explore, well, you can never get bored in Antigua.

*“The best service is not stiff or rehearsed. It is warm, instinctive and deeply Caribbean.”*

Perhaps that is what truly defines a perfect stay here. Not ostentation or endless amenities, but barefoot luxury and a laid-back feel. Antigua & Barbuda has a way of reminding visitors how good life can be when they slow down and reconnect with nature and beauty. The best boutique hotels do not compete with that. They quietly support it, then step back and let the islands do the rest.

What constitutes *your* perfect stay?



*Moon Gate Hotel & Spa*  
*Half Moon Bay*

## HERMITAGE BAY AND NOBU BEACH INN

### *Two islands, one philosophy*

One property already knows its guests. The other is yet to open. Hermitage Bay in Antigua and Nobu Beach Inn in Barbuda sit on different islands, yet share a common philosophy of laid-back luxury and attentive service, shaped by Daniel Shamoon's background in boutique hospitality, including Puente Romano, Marbella Club and the Nobu hotels in Marbella and Marrakech.

On Antigua's west coast, Hermitage Bay reopened in October 2025 following an extensive refurbishment and investment programme. Long held in high regard by returning guests, the adults-only, all-

inclusive resort is now a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World and has set clear ambitions to become the best hotel in the Caribbean. The work was not about changing what people value about Hermitage Bay, but about ensuring its character remained intact while the resort was brought up to date.

Intimacy is built into the design. With just 30 villa suites tucked into the hillside and stretched along the curve of the bay, the resort has always favoured privacy and a relaxed sense of seclusion. Interiors and outdoor living areas have been carefully



upgraded, with more private pools added across key categories.

Public areas have also been refreshed, from the beachfront restaurant and bars to the spa, which now sits closer to the water. Dining continues to focus on Caribbean flavours, local produce and the daily catch, with a new beach club and an afternoon omakase service broadening the dining offer.

What truly defines Hermitage Bay is continuity. General Manager Rachel Browne has been with the property for nearly two decades, supported by a long-serving team whose consistency

has fostered deep guest loyalty. Many visitors return year after year, drawn as much by the people as by the setting. It comes as little surprise that Hermitage Bay was recently named the only hotel in Antigua to appear on Condé Nast Traveler's Gold List.

Across the channel in Barbuda, a very different project is happening. Nobu Beach Inn is under development on Princess Diana Beach, one of the Caribbean's most unspoilt stretches of sand, as part of The Beach Club, Barbuda, a low-impact resort and residential community planned with minimal environmental impact. Set across nearly 400 acres, the project reflects a long-standing ambition shared by Robert De Niro, James Packer and Managing Partner Daniel Shamoon to develop a destination in keeping with the island.

Nobu Beach Inn will comprise 17 two- and three-bedroom beachfront bungalows, set within lush vegetation and connected by sandy pathways. The single-storey architecture uses natural materials and keeps buildings low to the ground, minimising visual impact. The emphasis is on a barefoot, informal approach to luxury, true to Barbuda's character.

Nobu Beach Inn will serve as the focal point for the Beach Club, combining hotel accommodation with a limited number of private residences spread across the site. Facilities will include an oceanfront pool and spa, wellness facilities and water-based activities. Construction is well underway, with the hotel scheduled to open in late 2026.

Dining is already central to the story. The Nobu beachfront restaurant, which opened in 2020, has quickly become one of the island's go-to dining destinations, drawing visitors to Barbuda in its own right. It will be joined by a small number of additional restaurants and bars across the wider Beach Club development.

Together, Hermitage Bay and Nobu Beach Inn represent two distinct expressions of luxury boutique hospitality. One builds on a long-established reputation. The other introduces something entirely new to Barbuda. Different in form, united in philosophy.

Hermitage Bay is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

[www.hermitagebay.com](http://www.hermitagebay.com)  
[www.thebeachclub.com](http://www.thebeachclub.com)



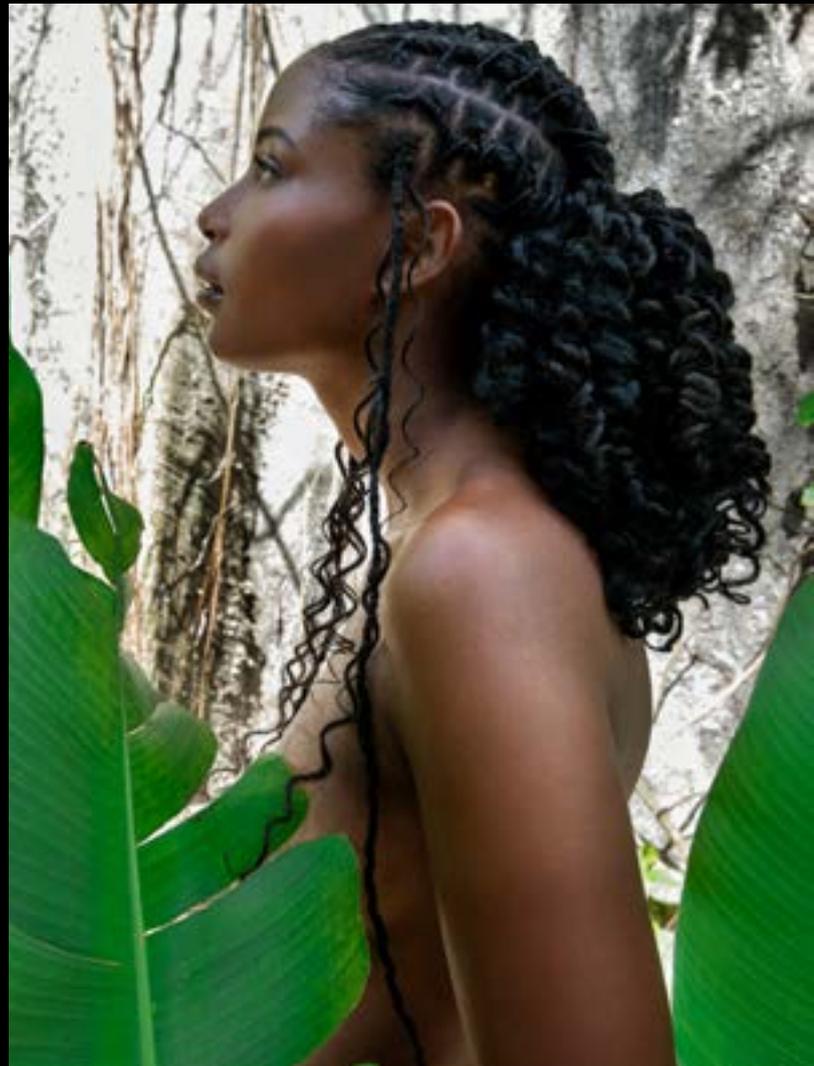


# ANTIGUA THROUGH MY LENS

by  
**Angela Lo Priore**

*Wadadli Feminine is Italian photographer Angela Lo Priore's striking new book – a series of portraits of Antiguan women photographed in nature that celebrates freedom, pride and connection to the earth. What began as a personal response to the island's beauty and spirit has become a love letter to womanhood, and a cultural milestone for Antigua.*







# QA



To find out more:  
[www.angelapriore.com](http://www.angelapriore.com)  
Instagram: @angelaopriorephotographer

## What is *Wadadli Feminine* and what inspired it?

*Wadadli Feminine* is a tribute to the island of Antigua and to the strength, grace, and spirit of its women – a love letter to femininity.

The book features portraits of over 30 women of all ages. Each image is accompanied by poems, testimonies, and reflections, exploring themes of healing, sisterhood, self-acceptance and the rediscovery of the body. The result is a work that combines fine-art photography, anthropological insight and visual poetry.

I've known Antigua for years and always wanted to create a project here. Eventually, I decided to focus on capturing the essence of its femininity. What inspired me most was the uniqueness of these women and seeing them carry their bodies with pride, expressing a non-stereotypical, free and authentic presence.

## How did you choose the women who appear?

All the women were chosen spontaneously and almost none are professional models. I wanted to portray natural bodies, genuine beauty and women in their authentic selves. Some were friends, others women I met by chance: an astronaut, a housewife, an artist, a singer...

I approached women on the street or the beach simply because I sensed something special in them, such as truth, strength or presence. There was no search for perfection, no direction or expectation, only the desire to represent real, unfiltered beauty.

I wanted bodies that would feel like an extension of the natural world, like flowers, like branches. Every woman

has a different, unique body, and it is through that uniqueness that she must affirm her beauty – a lesson that nature itself teaches.

## What moment from the project stands out most for you?

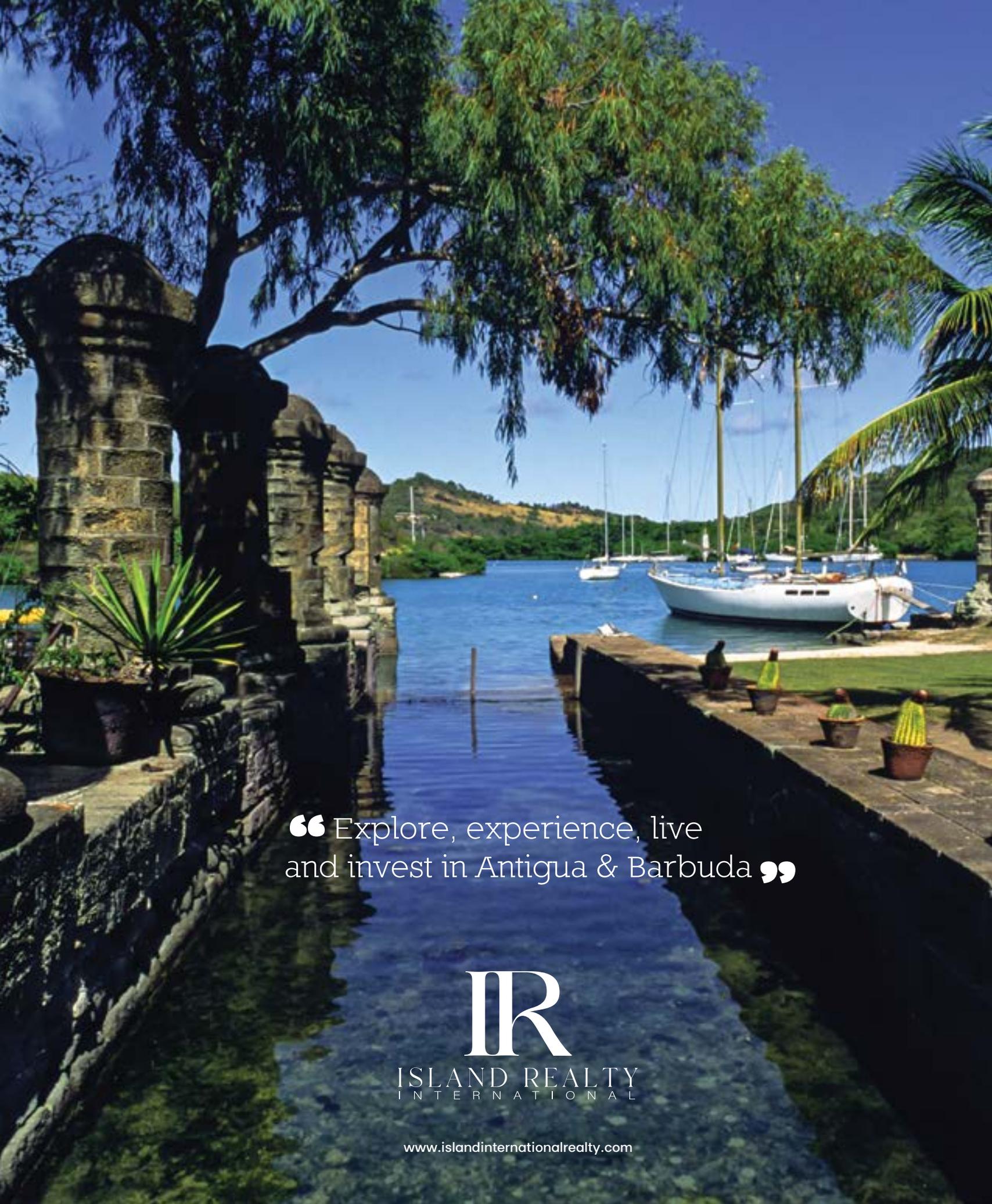
The first shoot was the most intense for me, as I was setting the foundation for the entire project. That day, in the heart of the rainforest, there were about ten women, both participants and crew, and this sense of sisterhood made me feel fully supported and protected.

## How important was the natural landscape as part of your storytelling?

Nature was essential to this project and was what initially inspired me. It isn't just a background; it's an active presence, a living entity that breathes with the women. I imagined a dialogue between body and land, where both merge into a single ecosystem of beauty and harmony.

## What's next for you?

Since I love this island so deeply, I hope to spend as much time here as possible. I would like to become a point of reference for anyone who wishes to experience portrait photography, because I truly believe that standing in front of a camera and allowing yourself to be seen can be a powerful act of liberation from taboos and self-doubt. I believe the women experienced a process of release and acceptance of their bodies, their individuality and their beauty. I think this kind of experience can resonate with anyone. I want to thank all the women for trusting me and allowing me to bring this wonderful project to life. ●

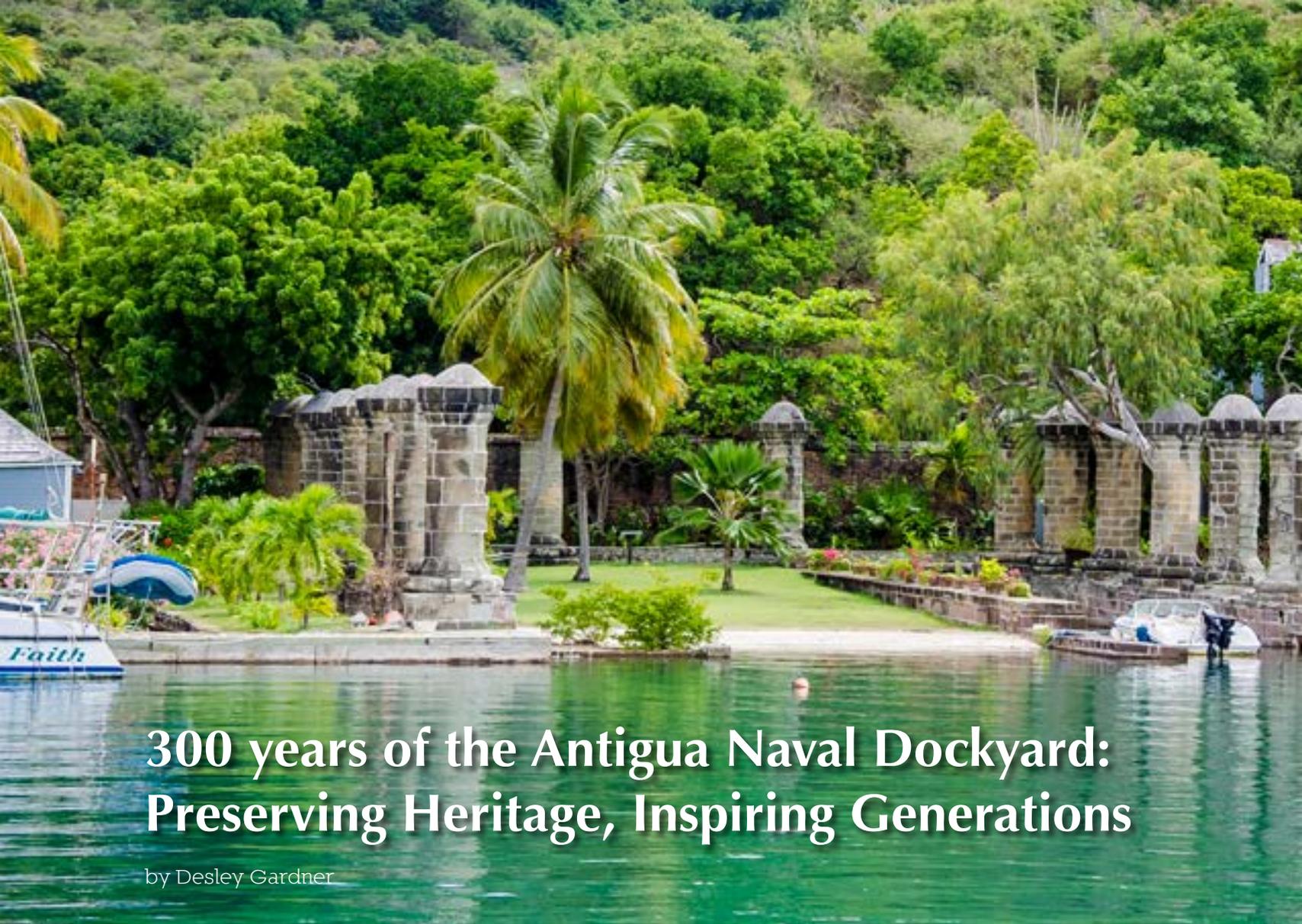


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[www.islandinternationalrealty.com](http://www.islandinternationalrealty.com)



# 300 years of the Antigua Naval Dockyard: Preserving Heritage, Inspiring Generations

by Desley Gardner

Three centuries after Admiral Nelson famously dismissed it as an “infernal hellhole,” the Antigua Naval Dockyard stands as a remarkable testament to endurance, transformation and vision. Its evolution from a bustling British naval outpost to the beloved Nelson’s Dockyard and, ultimately, to its UNESCO World Heritage status, has far exceeded anything the Admiral himself could have imagined. The amenities have improved beyond measure; the purpose has broadened, and the people who have shaped the Dockyard, from those who built it to those who safeguard it today, have left indelible marks on a site that continues

to thrive at the heart of Antigua & Barbuda’s continuous cultural landscape.

On 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1725, the Antigua Legislature passed An Act to Invest Certain Lands in His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors for the Use of His Majesty’s Ships of War. With one decisive instruction, the first Dockyard at English Harbour was born, setting in motion a legacy that has endured for three centuries. What began as a safe haven for the repair and protection of British warships against hurricanes and piracy quickly grew into a centre of military strategy and maritime enterprise.

From 1725 to 1899, the Royal Navy shaped the Dockyard and its surrounding fortifications, from Shirley Heights and the Blockhouse to Fort Charlotte and Fort Berkeley, leaving a landscape deeply marked by naval power and the interactions of European sailors and soldiers with free and enslaved African labourers. Together, these communities created a cultural landscape rooted in Georgian-era design yet reshaped to Caribbean realities. This fusion of heritage and resilience remains etched into every stone wall, bastion, fortification, military barracks and pathways of the Dockyard and its surrounding facilities



*"Today, as Nelson's Dockyard marks its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its significance extends far beyond its remarkable history. The site now stands as a living, working heritage space where community, culture, and commerce intersect."*

landscapes stretching from Mamora Bay to Carlisle Bay.

Today, as Nelson's Dockyard marks its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, its significance extends far beyond its remarkable history. The site now stands as a living, working heritage space where community, culture, and commerce intersect. At the heart of this success is the National Parks Authority, guiding the Dockyard with a forward-looking approach that balances development with careful conservation. Its vision is to ensure that the Dockyard and its surrounding landscapes are not only preserved for their historical value but also remain resilient in the face of 21st-century challenges.

One key historical value can be seen from the iconic vantage point at Shirley Heights. Perched high above English Harbour, it offers one of the most photographed vistas, framing the Dockyard, Fort Berkeley, Middle Ground, Falmouth Harbour, Dow's Hill and Galleon Beach. Once prized for its strategic location guarding the entrance of English Harbour, this breathtaking view today allows locals and visitors alike to appreciate how heritage was sculpted into the natural landscape, revealing not only the practical value of Antigua's terrain but also its striking beauty.

In efforts to preserve the heritage landscape for future generations, the focus is on proactive planning for climate change adaptation, safeguarding coastal and cultural heritage as rising seas and stronger storms become a reality. It also prioritises community spaces and livelihoods, ensuring that heritage conservation supports local prosperity and wellbeing. Through these efforts, the Dockyard is not a relic of the past but a thriving cultural landscape, well-

equipped to inspire future generations. Reaching this 300-year milestone casts new light on the importance of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March Project, a community-driven initiative that deepens the interpretation of the Dockyard by bringing local voices, traditions and experiences to the forefront. This approach enriches the site's narrative, ensuring that the people who built and sustained the Dockyard are recognised as central to its ongoing story. The project extends interpretation beyond the triumphs of naval glory to highlight the contributions of Billy, London, James Soe, Caramantee Quamano, Dick, Joe, Scipio and Johnno, the eight men who met their demise in an explosion on the 8th of March 1744 while in service to the Crown.

The 8<sup>th</sup> of March Project honours not only these eight men, but the thousands of others whose labour shaped the Antigua Naval Dockyard from its earliest days. Their skill as carpenters, stonemasons, sawyers, and artisans live on in the remarkable endurance of the Dockyard's buildings: structures that reveal how Georgian architectural principles were ingeniously adapted to Caribbean climatic realities. Their legacy extends far beyond the walls they built. It is woven into the cultural fabric of Antigua & Barbuda, where the traditions and knowledge carried from West Africa through Middle Ground communities have left an indelible mark on the island's identity.

From naval stronghold to UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Antigua Naval Dockyard is today a powerful symbol of endurance and adaptation. As Antigua and Barbuda celebrates this milestone, the message is clear: the Dockyard's past is its foundation, but its future depends on innovation, resilience and the continued partnership between heritage and community. ●

today, a quiet reminder of the hands and histories that built it. After its naval abandonment, the Dockyard entered new chapters of adaptation and rebirth. The 1960s saw the rise of the charter yacht industry alongside conservation work led by the Friends of English Harbour. Together they sparked the Dockyard's steady transformation into a heritage tourism hub. By the 1980s, heritage management had taken centre stage, culminating in the establishment of Nelson's Dockyard National Park in 1984, which protects 15.9 square miles (roughly 41.2 square kilometres) of marine and terrestrial





“

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”



INSPIRING SPACES, INSPIRED LIVING.

Interior design  
by



HOMES & COUTURE



# MADE IN ANTIGUA

**A**rtisan work has always been part of Antigua & Barbuda's cultural landscape, shaping daily life long before it became something visitors sought out. Traditional crafts have carried the island's history through generations, and today they sit alongside a growing wave of new makers bringing fresh ideas, updated techniques and modern touches to long-established skills. Some remain closely tied to heritage, others are more experimental, but all contribute to a creative scene that continues to expand. What connects these artisans is the unmistakable local influence running through their work. Many draw directly from Antigua's natural

elements, whether through materials gathered from the island itself or inspiration taken from its people, colours and everyday life. Sea salt, local herbs, island clay, driftwood, indigenous plants and tropical fruit find their way into products and crafts that feel genuinely rooted in the islands.

As with much of the culture and traditions in Antigua & Barbuda, many local handicrafts carry echoes of West African heritage, brought to the islands by enslaved people. Patterns, techniques and traditions passed down over centuries still shape how many artisans approach their craft today. This African influence sits alongside those from

the many cultures that now call the island home, creating a vibrant, cosmopolitan mix. Across the islands, artisans reinterpret tradition in many forms, from recycled materials and handcrafted goods to sea salt, chocolate and food rooted in family recipes. Others may take macramé, candle making or jewellery into unexpected territory, blending global ideas with unmistakably Antiguan flair.

Together, this growing community of makers adds depth and richness to Antigua, respectful of its roots but confident in its ability to grow and adapt. Their work shows how culture evolves, shaped by the hands of those who live it.



## LOCAL SHOP & TASTING BAR

Where local  
flavours meet  
local craft



Bay Gardens, Hodges Bay Main Road, Antigua | [www.AntillesDistilling.com](http://www.AntillesDistilling.com) | [Instagram.com/LOCAL.TasteAntigua](https://www.instagram.com/LOCAL.TasteAntigua)

Nestled in the lush green backdrop of Bay Gardens, you'll find a unique experience at LOCAL Shop & Tasting Bar, a place that celebrates locally made spirits, cocktails, drinks, craft, art and gourmet artisan goods. Proprietors David and Sonu Murphy designed the shop to give visitors a true taste of Antigua, showcase Antilles Stillhouse craft creations and offer other artisans a platform to share their products.



**TASTING BAR**

In production for ten years, Antilles Stillhouse, also owned by the Murphys, creates small-batch spirits that highlight island botanicals. Their portfolio includes Big Wood Gin, Pink Sorrel Gin, Fevergrass Spirit, Kina Orange Amaro, Blue Pastis, Coffee Liqueur, Absinthe,

Vermouth, and will soon release a barrel-aged rum. The Tasting Bar provides samples of their craft spirits, as well as artfully crafted cocktails using their spirits and in-house mixers. With something for everyone, the bar also includes no/lo cocktails, craft beer and drinks on tap like their pineapple cider.

All handmade artisan libations are crafted for you to taste, savour and enjoy. The micro bar also features small bites and charcuterie options to enjoy while you sip and chill in the lounge.

**SHOP & GALLERY**

Carefully curated, the shop boasts the best of Antiguan and Caribbean-made

products. Everything from crafted silver-smithed jewellery, bath and beauty, macrame creations, pottery, gourmet jams, vinegars, hot sauces and preserves, books, clothing, and purses are at home here. Local artists display their works on the visiting gallery wall, while the shop also houses the

working studio and artwork of resident artist Sonu Murphy. A unique sip, shop and lime experience awaits visitors who stop into LOCAL. Whether you're enjoying a refreshing beverage, finding that perfect gift or perusing the artwork, LOCAL offers something for everyone.





**1. Macra Miche**

Driven by craftsmanship and detail, Michelle creates one-of-a-kind macramé jewellery and accessories for men, women and children.

[Instagram.com/macramiche](https://www.instagram.com/macramiche)

**2. Paddling Duck**

Harvested and hand-blended by Carla, Paddling Duck offers organic loose-leaf teas for all occasions.

[Instagram.com/paddling\\_duck\\_herbal\\_tea](https://www.instagram.com/paddling_duck_herbal_tea)

**3. 28 Knots**

Rachel is the artist behind these hand-knotted macramé creations, blending craftsmanship with inspiration drawn from nature's gems to produce décor and travel accessories for home and business.

[Instagram.com/28knots\\_](https://www.instagram.com/28knots_)

**4. Nicole's Table**

Homemade condiments celebrating the flavours of the Caribbean, by well-known chef Nicole Arthurton Dennis.

[www.nicolestable.com](http://www.nicolestable.com)

**5. NDF Bath and Body**

Born from a love of craftsmanship and sustainability, Nathalie is the creator of Antigua's first wooden-wick candle company, offering handcrafted candles and bath and body products.

[Instagram.com/ndfbathandbody](https://www.instagram.com/ndfbathandbody)

**6. Divine Creations**

Joanna is the artisan behind this collection of luxury skin and hair care products, alongside handcrafted candles.

[Instagram.com/divinecreate](https://www.instagram.com/divinecreate)

**7. Mon Serrai Silver Jewellery**

Artist Stephanie is the creator behind Mon Serrai Silver Jewellery, crafting pieces inspired by and made for island life.

[www.monserrai.com](http://www.monserrai.com)

**8. The Salt Patch 17.4° 61.5°**

The Salt Patch, founded by Didee, is a female-owned brand specialising in products crafted from pure Barbudan sea salt.

[Instagram.com/thesaltpatch](https://www.instagram.com/thesaltpatch)

# ANTIGUA HOUSE OF CHOCOLATE

## A taste of Caribbean cocoa

Who doesn't love chocolate? And for those with a soft spot for this sweet indulgence, there's a little gem waiting to be discovered tucked away in Bay Gardens at Hodges Bay – the Antigua House of Chocolate. What began as a simple curiosity about where chocolate comes from quickly became a passion project celebrating the heart and soul of Caribbean cocoa.

On one of his many trips to the island of Dominica, founder Peter met a seasoned cocoa grower known affectionately as Blue

Boy. Watching him transform humble cocoa beans into rich, flavourful

chocolate sparked something more than admiration. Instead of simply enjoying chocolate, Peter wanted to understand it. He saw firsthand how a bean becomes the treat we all know and love, and realised Antigua needed its own “from bean to bar” story. But there was more to this chocolate tale than technique alone. Along the way, Peter fell in love with the region's cocoa culture, from the historic Gingerette estate with its mature cocoa trees to Pointe Baptiste House and the Dominica Chocolate Factory, where time-honoured methods are still cherished. The connections he made and skills he learned now shape the chocolate made right here in Antigua.

Today, Antigua House of Chocolate offers organic, healthy, small-batch treats that reflect that journey. You'll find hot or iced cocoa tea made from pure, seasoned beans, rum-infused truffles and shelf chocolate spiced with roasted coconut, lemongrass and ginger. Alongside these local creations are products from small growers across the Caribbean, a conscious nod to sustainable farming and regional collaboration.

Soon, visitors will even be able to get hands-on with the chocolate-making process themselves, making this sweet spot not just a place to shop, but somewhere to slow down and appreciate how chocolate is really made.





# ELEMENTS ANTIGUA

## Island-inspired creations



Based in English Harbour, Mary Wilkinson is a prolific creator and entrepreneur. Her journey began with The Powder Room Spa, located in Admirals Inn in Nelson's Dockyard. She has grown the spa into a trusted, 4.9-star experience, known for its care, integrity and exceptional team. Mary later collaborated in the creation

of the spa's signature product line, Elements Antigua, a range of body and facial care products handcrafted on the island with a strong focus on sustainability and reef-safe sunscreen. Her next venture was The Golden Shell, designing fabric made from a GOTS-certified cotton and hemp blend featuring the iconic flamboyant

tree. While the fabric is printed in Canada, manufacturing takes place in Antigua, supporting local employment and skills development. An entrepreneur at heart, Mary remains closely connected to the island she calls home, with Antigua's rich flora and fauna inspiring everything she creates.

[www.elementsantigua.com](http://www.elementsantigua.com) | [Instagram.com/elementsantigua](https://www.instagram.com/elementsantigua)

# Stephen Murphy's reclaimed visions





Facebook.com/zemiartgallery



I was born in Antigua, where I enjoyed a rich and memorable childhood deeply connected to the natural environment. As a young boy, I spent much of my time hiking, exploring and playing outdoors with friends. In the absence of major toy distributors at the time, our play was shaped by creativity and resourcefulness rather than by manufactured toys. We used whatever materials were available to us, old bicycle tyres, discarded construction materials and other objects found in our surroundings, to invent games and create our own forms of entertainment. Life was simpler then, and this way

of playing encouraged imagination, collaboration and a strong bond with the environment. At that time, concepts such as ‘upcycling’ or ‘recycling’ were not part of our everyday vocabulary. Nevertheless, what we were doing instinctively was repurposing materials from our environment to enrich our upbringing and make the most of what was available to us. This early experience left a lasting impression on how I view materials, value and creativity. Many years later, I have carried this way of thinking into my artistic

practice. Today, I work with discarded computers, smart televisions, CDs, plastics, wood and other materials found in the environment, transforming them into one-of-a-kind, handcrafted works of art. These pieces reflect both my childhood experiences and a continued commitment to reimagining overlooked or discarded objects as meaningful and expressive forms. My work is now available for purchase at Zemi Art Gallery, located in the historic Redcliffe Quay, where tradition, creativity and cultural heritage come together.

CONSERVATION

# The fading universe

Since the dawn of time, humans have looked up at the night sky in awe. Ancient navigators charted courses by the stars, and myths and legends were written in their constellations. Civilisations also built monuments aligned with celestial movements. The heavens were once our compass, calendar and storybook all in one. Yet today, for much of the world, that glittering canvas is vanishing behind a growing haze of artificial light.



**M**odern life has wrapped us in a cocoon of brightness. Streets, buildings and billboards glow through the night, offering convenience and safety but also drowning out the universe above. Astronomers are sounding the alarm. The rate of human-made light in the night sky is increasing by around 10 percent each year. At this pace, many of the major constellations could be unrecognisable within two decades. The Milky Way is already hidden from one-third of humanity, and in Europe and North America the figure is even higher. A loss of

thousand satellites in orbit a decade ago, the number has surged to more than twelve thousand today, many of which reflect sunlight and add streaks of brightness across telescope images. Protecting dark skies is therefore as much about defending our ability to learn as it is about protecting our ability to dream. And it is not only astronomers who suffer. Our own health is at stake. Human beings evolved with the natural rhythm of day and night coded into our DNA. Darkness triggers the release of melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep, while

synchronised with Earth's predictable alternation of light and shadow. Artificial illumination scrambles this balance. Migratory birds that once relied on the moon and stars to find their way are now lured towards glowing skylines, colliding with buildings or exhausting themselves as they circle in confusion. Every year, millions of birds perish in this way. Amphibians, whose nightly chorus is key to reproduction, fall silent under the glare of lamps. Insects spiral fatally around bulbs, weakening food webs that sustain countless species. Entire ecological

*“Unlike climate change or deforestation, light pollution is a problem that could be solved almost instantly by simply flicking the switch.”*

this magnitude is not just scientific but cultural, severing our connection with the cosmos and stripping away a shared heritage of wonder. The concern is not only about what we fail to see. The loss of dark skies directly hampers scientific discovery. Telescopes on Earth rely on clear skies to unravel mysteries ranging from planetary systems to the origins of the universe. When satellites, streetlamps and floodlights wash out the heavens, astronomers find themselves battling a tide of interference that no instrument can overcome. From only a few

exposure to light at night suppresses it. Disturbances to this delicate cycle are increasingly linked to sleep disorders, depression, obesity, diabetes and even certain forms of cancer. Scientists warn that just as climate change alters temperature in ways that ripple through every ecosystem, so altering natural light cycles can have profound effects on our own wellbeing. In a world that prides itself on twenty-four-hour access to everything, we may be paying the price with our health. Nature, too, reels from the glare. For billions of years, life has

chains unravel when such small but crucial creatures decline. And then there are the sea turtles, perhaps the most poignant victims of all. For these ancient mariners, who return year after year to nest on the beaches in places like Antigua & Barbuda, light is a matter of life and death. Hatchlings instinctively crawl towards the brightest horizon, which in natural conditions is the shimmer of moonlight on the sea. When beachside hotels and houses shine white bulbs, the babies turn inland instead, perishing from dehydration or predators before they ever touch



the waves. With a survival ratio of one in 1000 from hatchling to fully mature adult, they need all the help they can get to reproduce. After years of lobbying, conservationist Mykl Clovis-Fuller of the Antigua Sea Turtle Project (ATSP) made strides through the introduction of less disruptive red-filtered lights on nesting beaches like Darkwood and Jabberwock, but the threat remains wherever development creeps along the shore. But unfortunately, this is just a drop in the ocean worldwide, and these creatures, who survived the age of the dinosaurs, now face a threat that is modern yet utterly unnecessary. Unlike climate change or deforestation, light pollution is a problem that could be solved almost instantly by simply flicking the switch. The mantra among experts is “keep it low, keep it shielded, keep it long.” Lights should be low to the ground, angled downward to avoid spillage into the sky, and ideally amber in colour to limit their ecological toll. Above all, lights should be turned off when not needed. In Florida, such measures have already saved tens of thousands of turtle hatchlings, proof that small changes can have immediate and dramatic results. The idea of formally protecting the night sky is not new. As far back as 1958, Flagstaff in Arizona became the first city in the world to pass laws safeguarding its dark skies for

*“The Milky Way is already hidden from one-third of humanity, and in Europe and North America the figure is even higher.”*

astronomy. Since then, the concept has grown into a global movement, with official dark sky reserves and parks now recognised across several continents. These reserves are areas where artificial light is strictly controlled to preserve natural darkness, benefiting both wildlife and human visitors. Today, places such as Big Cypress Natural Preserve in Florida, Exmoor and Snowdonia in the UK, and Jasper National Park in Canada are celebrated as dark sky destinations. For travellers, they offer a chance to rediscover the heavens in all their splendour, while for scientists and conservationists, they demonstrate how policy, community involvement and simple lighting choices can reclaim the night. For Antigua & Barbuda, this conversation carries a special weight. Here is one of the Caribbean’s relatively dark corners, where away from St John’s or the island’s main resorts, the skies still dazzle with constellations. Barbuda, with its

low development, is even more spectacular. Out at sea, far from shore, the heavens still appear in their full glory, the same skies that guided the first peoples across the oceans.

Astrotourism is now on the rise worldwide, drawing travellers to places where the stars can still be seen. The twin islands are perfectly poised to benefit. Their remote beaches, still untouched in many parts, are both havens for wildlife and windows to the universe. Imagine a visitor lying back on the sand at Rendezvous Bay or Spanish Point in Barbuda, tracing the Milky Way overhead and realising that they are witnessing something increasingly rare on this planet. That memory becomes woven into the fabric of their experience of Antigua & Barbuda.

The night sky is part of our environment, as essential to human experience as the air we breathe and the landscapes we live within. To lose it would be to sever one of our oldest and deepest bonds with nature. The good news is that darkness is still within our power to restore. By embracing responsible lighting, respecting the natural rhythms of life and placing limits on the unchecked spread of satellites, the world can reclaim its stars. The heavens that once guided our ancestors need not fade into memory, but can remain a shared inheritance for generations to come. ●

# WORTH QUOTE

## NEW SUPERCRANE BOOSTS PORT EFFICIENCY

A US\$6.2 million supercrane has been installed at the port in Antigua & Barbuda, marking a leap forward in speed, power and operational efficiency. The advanced equipment is expected to enhance handling capacity and support the country's growth as a maritime hub.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TO HOST CARIBBEAN TRAVEL MARKETPLACE 2026

The twin island nation has been selected to host the 44th edition of the Caribbean Travel Marketplace from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026, building on its successful hosting of the 2025 event. The annual forum, organised by the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association, brings together regional tourism suppliers and global buyers to support business, innovation and recovery in the Caribbean.



## ELITE RESORTS FEATURED ON THE GOLDEN BACHELOR

Four of Antigua's Elite Island Resorts, including Galley Bay Resort & Spa, Hammock Cove, Pineapple Beach Club and The Verandah, will be featured in the finale episodes of The Golden Bachelor. The exposure is expected to highlight Antigua & Barbuda globally as a leading romance and luxury travel destination.



## NEW ANTIGUA-MONTSERRAT FLIGHTS ANNOUNCED

Starting 1st September 2025, SVG BMN Airways began operating two daily TwinOtter services between Antigua and Montserrat. The flights will operate for a seven-month period, offering travellers a convenient link between the islands and expanding regional connectivity.



## THEME SET FOR CHOGM 2026

The theme for the 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Antigua & Barbuda has been announced as "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth". The summit is scheduled to take place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA OPENS CANADA OFFICE

The Tourism Authority has opened its first independent overseas office in Toronto, creating a one-stop hub to serve travel advisors, media, and Canadians interested in the twin-island nation.



#### AUA RENEWS ROHRMAN SPONSORSHIP

The American University of Antigua has renewed its title sponsorship of the AUA Rohrman multisport festival for 2026, strengthening its commitment to sports tourism and community-building in Antigua & Barbuda.

#### PUSH FOR GREEN TRANSSHIPMENT HUB

Antigua & Barbuda is advancing plans to position its main port as a leading Caribbean transshipment hub, backed by a new MoU with maritime technology firm Veer to create the region's first fully decarbonised facility. The initiative will leverage upgraded port infrastructure, green-fuel capabilities and partnerships with global shipping lines to boost connectivity, logistics and sustainability.

#### UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS SET FOR EXPANSION

Work on the expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2026. Funding of US\$200 million has been secured, with the project geared to boost capacity to approximately 5,000 students and enhance Antigua & Barbuda's role as a regional higher-education hub.

### DOCUSERIES FILMED IN TWIN ISLANDS

A Canadian television production team recently filmed a multi-episode docuseries titled *The Good Trek* with Alex Kopacz, capturing the twin island nation's landscapes, culture and community initiatives. The project was supported by the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority's Canada office as part of a push to highlight meaningful travel and engagement with local realities.



### ECONOMY PROJECTED TO GROW 4.8% IN 2025

Antigua & Barbuda's economy is forecast to grow by 4.8 percent in 2025. The projected growth reflects a strong rebound primarily driven by tourism and increased economic activity. Next year's growth is expected to reach five percent.

### WEEKLY CARGO LINK LAUNCHED WITH MIAMI SERVICE

In September, Antigua & Barbuda welcomed the inaugural flight of 7 Air Cargo from Miami to V.C. Bird International Airport. The new Wednesday service will offer businesses and residents a regular shipping option, expanding capacity and boosting trade and US1 imports.

### MOVE TOWARD DIGITAL CUSTOMS SYSTEM

Antigua & Barbuda is advancing plans to introduce a National Single Window system for customs and trade. The platform would allow traders to submit all import-export documents online, improving clearance times, transparency and coordination among government agencies.



NEED HIGH RESOLUTION PLEASE

### ONE NATION MUSIC FESTIVAL SET FOR JANUARY

The One Nation Caribbean Music Festival will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026, showcasing regional talent and celebrating cultural unity. Newly knighted soca legends Burning Flames will headline the opening night. The event carries the slogan "One Stage, One People, One Love."



### LIAT EXPANDS ROUTES AGAIN

LIAT has further expanded its regional network with new flights from Antigua to Guyana and the Dominican Republic. Nonstop service to Georgetown's Eugene F. Correia Airport began on 17<sup>th</sup> November, followed by flights to Santo Domingo on 12<sup>th</sup> December and Punta Cana on 15<sup>th</sup> December. The new routes aim to strengthen travel, trade and tourism across the region.



### CULINARY MONTH 2026 GETS A GLOBAL PREVIEW

An exclusive media dinner in New York gave a taste of what Culinary Month 2026 will bring to Antigua & Barbuda from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May. The event featured dishes from top chefs and offered a warm invitation to experience the islands' rich food culture, with restaurant weeks, guest-chef popups and a festival of food, art and music planned.

### SOLAR LIGHTING PACT SIGNED WITH CHINA

Antigua & Barbuda has signed an agreement with China for the supply of 1,500 solar-powered street lights and 200 residential photovoltaic and energy storage units, as part of its push to enhance energy efficiency and climate resilience.



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### UK SHOWCASE FOR TWIN-ISLAND CUISINE

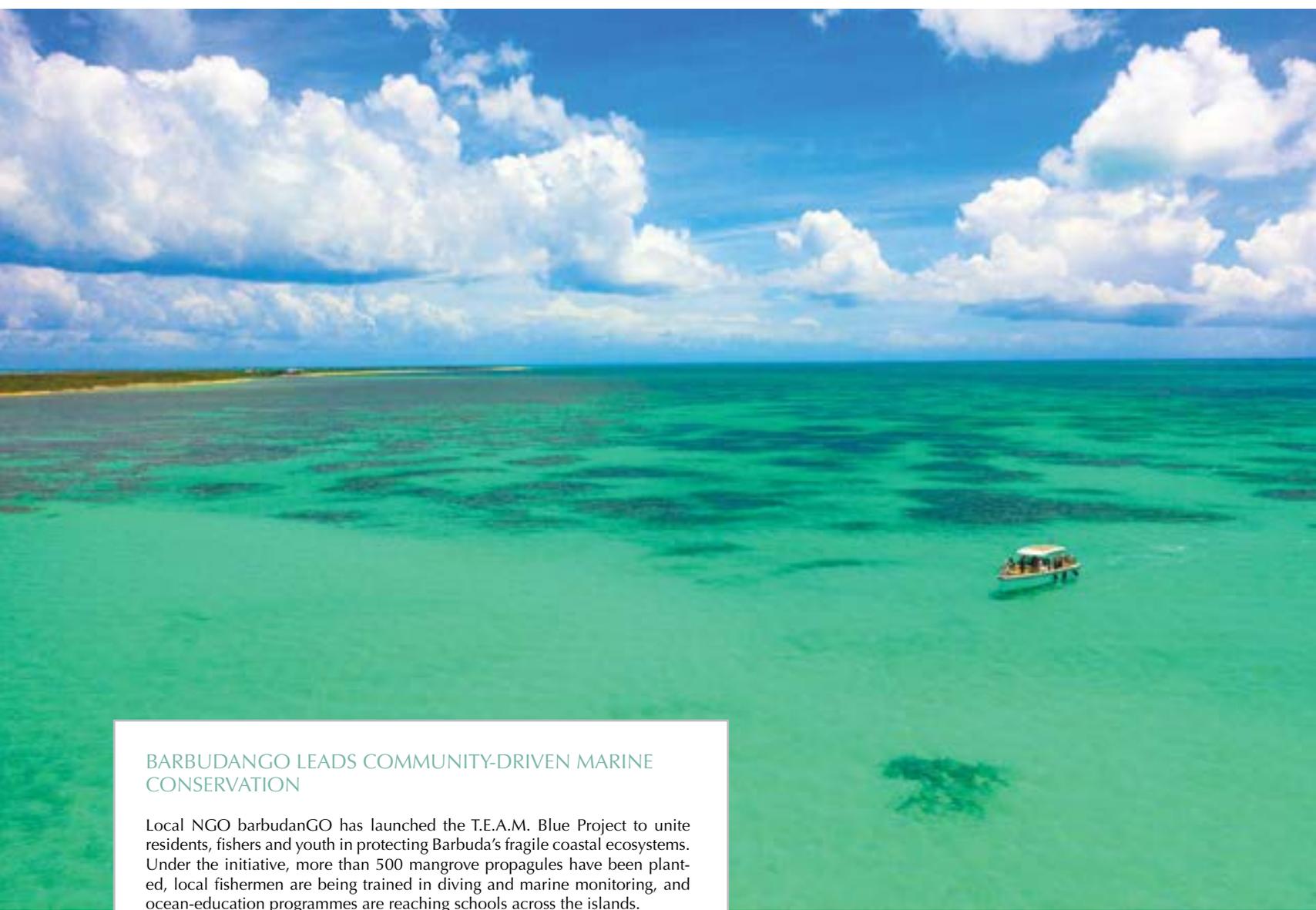
The Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority hosted two intimate culinary events in the UK, showcasing Antiguan chef Kareem Roberts and Barbudan chef Keshia Sakarah. The dinners, held in Cambridge and London in early November, highlighted the nation's evolving food scene and reinforced its appeal beyond sun and sand.

### LUXURY MARRIOTT RESORT DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

Construction has officially begun on the Marriott – Yepton House, a Luxury Collection Resort at Yep-ton, Antigua. The resort will feature 114 guest rooms, a signature restaurant, lobby bar, spa and gym, eight overwater villas, plus a dedicated watersports centre and rumshack. It is expected to open in time for the 2027 winter tourist season.

### CONSERVATION GRANTS AWARDED

The Antigua & Barbuda Environment Foundation has granted US\$45,000 to three locally led projects. The funding will support a youth ambassador coastal programme, the revitalisation of Barnes Hill Reservoir & Nature Park, and a bird-banding and census initiative in Barbuda to safeguard native species.



### BARBUDANGO LEADS COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MARINE CONSERVATION

Local NGO barbudanGO has launched the T.E.A.M. Blue Project to unite residents, fishers and youth in protecting Barbuda's fragile coastal ecosystems. Under the initiative, more than 500 mangrove propagules have been planted, local fishermen are being trained in diving and marine monitoring, and ocean-education programmes are reaching schools across the islands.



### MAJOR HERITAGE RESTORATIONS UNDERWAY

Two of Antigua & Barbuda’s most significant historical sites are undergoing major restoration. Conservation work is underway at the historic courthouse that houses the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, as part of the “Unlock the Museum” initiative to modernise exhibits while preserving national heritage. Meanwhile, the restoration of the Government House Museum is on track to be completed by the end of 2025, with support from the Heritage Trust and collaboration with regional museum experts.



### CONSIDERATION OF REEF-SAFE SUNSCREEN BAN

Antigua & Barbuda is moving toward a ban on sunscreens containing chemicals known to harm coral reefs, such as oxybenzone and octinoxate. The Ministry of Trade has launched consultations to develop a policy aligned with WTO and CARICOM standards, with draft legislation expected in early 2026 and implementation by mid-2026.

### ROSEWOOD FUNDS NEW BARBUDA PORT

Developers of the Rosewood Resort on Barbuda have advanced US\$5 million to support the construction of a new port facility. The move follows earlier delays due to brand concerns and will allow the port to be relocated away from the resort site. The upgraded facility is expected to enhance Barbuda’s maritime capacity and support its growing tourism infrastructure.

### NATION MARKS TOURISM WEEK

Tourism Week 2025 was held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November under the theme “Our People, Our Culture, Our Environment in full thrive.” The week of activities celebrated the nation’s tourism workers and highlighted service excellence, wellness and cultural pride, culminating in the National Tourism Awards Gala.



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**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA STRENGTHENS GLOBAL TIES**

Antigua & Barbuda has expanded its international partnerships with a series of new diplomatic and visa agreements. Visa waiver agreements were signed with the United Arab Emirates and Ghana, opening the door to greater mobility, tourism and investment. The country also formalised diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka to boost political, cultural and economic cooperation between the two Commonwealth nations.



**SWEEPING EDUCATION REFORMS ANNOUNCED**

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has unveiled major education reforms, including free CXC exam fees, free tuition at the Antigua & Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) starting in 2026, and tuition-free study at UWI Five Islands once expansion is complete. The launch of ABCAS, formed through the merger of three existing colleges, marks a bold step in modernising tertiary education, offering programmes in teacher education, business, IT, performing arts and TVET.



**CHARTERYACHT SHOW 2025 OPENED IN ANTIGUA**

The 2025 Antigua Charter Yacht Show opened on 4<sup>th</sup> December with the 64<sup>th</sup> edition uniting marinas at Nelson’s Dockyard, Falmouth Harbour and Antigua Yacht Club Marina. The show welcomed a fleet of about 53 superyachts, offering industry professionals a first look at some of the region’s most luxurious charter vessels and debuting dozens of new yachts.



**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TOPS TOURISTS-PER-RESIDENT LEAGUE**

Antigua & Barbuda ranks sixth globally in visitors per resident, welcoming approximately 12 tourists per resident. The figure highlights the twin-island nation’s strong appeal and the pivotal role tourism continues to play in its economy.



## ART WEEK 2025

Art Week 2025, under the banner “Symphony of Colours”, ran from 26th November to 2nd December and turned Antigua & Barbuda into a living canvas. Over 50 local and regional artists took part in more than 15 exhibitions and events held across galleries, airports, studios and public spaces. The week also included a retrospective at the Barracks Art Gallery celebrating the legacy of late Antiguan masters.

## ANTIGUA & BARBUDA NAMED CARIBBEAN’S TOP CONFERENCE DESTINATION

The twin-island nation claimed the World Travel Awards Caribbean’s Leading Meeting and Conference Destination 2025, outshining Jamaica, Puerto Rico and The Bahamas. The accolade highlights its growing appeal for global meetings and conferences, underpinned by worldclass venues, service and infrastructure.



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A person is relaxing in a hammock on a sandy beach. They are holding a large, round, woven hat with a white mesh top and a dark base. The person is wearing a colorful beaded bracelet and a dark bikini. The background shows a clear blue sky, a blue ocean, and palm fronds. The overall scene is peaceful and tropical.

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